

“THE WHOLE CHURCH BE COME TOGETHER”

INTRODUCTION

- I. The title of our lesson today is “The Whole Church Be Come Together”.
 - A. This expression is found only one time in the N. T., 1 Cor. 14:23. (Read)
 1. The letter of 1 Corinthians was written by the inspired apostle Paul TO the church in Corinth DIRECTLY, and to ALL congregations in all ages. 1 Cor. 1:2
 2. ONLY in this epistle do we have such detailed information about the function of spiritual gifts in the gospel age.
 - a. Some passages give the promise, names, obtaining, and duration of these gifts. Mark 16:17; 1 Cor. 12:8-10; Acts 2:4; 10:46; 8:13-18; 1 Cor. 13:8.
 - b. No other congregations received ANY directions for the use of these gifts.
 - B. Corinth was a troubled, carnally minded congregation that truly needed special instructions regarding these gifts.
- II. Now let’s look at the expression, “The whole church be come together.”

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, the expression DESCRIBES A CHURCH ASSEMBLY.

- A. The early church met regularly on the first day of each week. Acts; 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2
 1. This is borne out by secular writings about early Christian worship.
 2. These assemblies engaged in 5 acts of worship: Preaching, Prayer, Giving, Singing and Communion. Acts 2:42, 47; Heb. 13:15; Col. 3:16
 3. Some have argued that the church in Corinth probably had SPECIAL assemblies FOR the exercise of these special gifts.
 - a. However, there is NO evidence of such in scripture.
 - 1) The Corinthian church had preaching. 1 Cor. 15:1-3
 - 2) The Corinthian church had prayer. 1 Cor. 14:15-16
 - 3) The Corinthian church had singing. 1 Cor. 14:15
 - 4) The Corinthian church had giving. 1 Cor. 16:1-2
 - 5) The Corinthian church had communion. 1 Cor. 11:23-26
 - b. The ONLY difference is that IN their regular assemblies, before the written word of the N. T. was completed, the Corinthians uses these GIFTS of the Spirit for edification, BUT, they were ABUSING THESE GIFTS, as we shall observe.
- B. Another expression, “when YE come together” is found 3 other times in 1 Cor., describing the SINFUL actions that occurred in Corinth, and should be excluded and NOT followed in any congregations—then and now.
 1. Every time this expression is found, it introduces a REBUKE from the apostle Paul.
 2. They were not rebuked for assembling for regular worship, but for doing something wrong when they did assemble. 1 Cor. 11:17, 18, 20; cf 14:26

II. Now, there are THREE WORDS DESCRIBING THE EFFECTS OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCUSSED IN 1 COR. 14.

- A. 1st, there is the word “**EDIFICATION**”. 1 Cor. 14:26B
 1. Tongue-speaking **and** Prophecy are related to edification. 1 Cor. 14:22
 - a. Too much tongue speaking did not edify. v. 23
 - 1) Tongue-speaking was simply the ability to speak in languages they did not know—inspired by the Holy Spirit through the laying on of the apostles’ hands.

- 2) This miraculous act was only temporary. 1 Cor. 13:8
- b. For it to edify, there had to be interpreters. v. 28
2. Prophecy was for the purpose of edification until the revelation of the N. T. would be completed. vs. 24-25; cf Eph. 4:11-16

B. 2nd, there is the word **“CONFUSION”**. 1 Cor. 14:33

1. Tongue-speaking had to be regulated to avoid confusion. vs. 23, 27-28
2. Prophesying also had to be regulated to avoid confusion. vs. 29-33
3. Women were to keep silent when men prophesied, or taught the word of God—IN THE ASSEMBLY. v. 34
 - a. This was based on the principle of submission God placed upon Eve and her female descendants, set forth in Gen. 3.
 - b. If they had any questions, they could ask their husbands later, at home or elsewhere. v. 35

C. 3rd, there is the word **“ORDERLY”** or “in order”. Cf KJV, NKJ, NASB

1. Tongue-speaking had to be done “by course” or orderly. v. 27
2. Prophecy also was to be done orderly. vs. 29-31

CONCLUSION

I. The appointed general assembly of the church is very important.

- A. 1st, therein are we doing God’s will and glorifying Him in worship.
- B. 2nd, we are encouraging one another to love and good works and faithfulness.
Heb.10:24-25

II. The principles of **edification, confusion, and orderliness** were applied in the first century church, and also apply in the 21st century church as well.

- A. These principles are violated when some offer one or more acts of worship at the same time, such as singing while the preaching takes place, etc..
- B. Man’s effort to do something different only destroys edification, brings confusion and disorder.

III. If your life one that has not been turned from the world to God for salvation, you can make that turn today.

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