

Rom. 14:19  
So then let us  
follow after  
things which  
make for  
peace, and  
things whereby  
we may edify  
one another.



John 8:32 and  
ye shall know  
the truth, and  
the truth  
shall make  
you free.

**March  
13  
2022**

## **DOES GOD SEND NEW APOSTLES AND PROPHETS TODAY?**

by Ron Halbrook

After New Testament revelation was completed, men rose up claiming to be new apostles and prophets. Until this very hour such claims are made. Does God send new apostles and prophets with new prophecies, new knowledge, and new revelations today?

**1 Corinthians 12-14** is a unit discussing the use of miraculous gifts by the brethren at Corinth. All such gifts were God's means of revealing and confirming the truth of the gospel of Christ. This message was not given instantly, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, but rather it was revealed little by little, line by line, part by part, until it was completed over a period of time.

In **chapter 12** Paul listed many miraculous gifts given in the first century as necessary for the process of divine revelation including prophecy, tongues (speaking foreign languages without study), and knowledge. The latter three are mentioned again in **chapter 13**, verses **8-13**, as representing the entire list introduced in **chapter 12**.

**8** *Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*

**9** *For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.*

**10** *But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*

**11** *When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*

**12** *For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

**13** *And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*

Notice that **verse 9** refers to the gifts of knowledge and prophecy, two of the three miraculous gifts mentioned in **verse 8**, again as representative of all

such gifts.

All the gifts were to end "*when that which is perfect is come.*" "*That which is perfect*" is the completion of something which was "*in part,*" something being revealed part by part. The Holy Spirit guided Paul to explain that when the full revelation would be completed, the process of revealing truth part by part would cease. When did those miraculous gifts finish their purpose and end? The process of divine revelation was completed by the end of the first century.

We have the complete revelation in the New Testament today. No one today has the miraculous power to prophecy. No one today has the miraculous gift to preach in foreign languages without study. No one today receives miraculous revelations of knowledge which can be added to "*that which is perfect*" or complete.

The false prophets of today will try to escape the teaching of **1 Corinthians 13** by claiming "*that which is perfect*" refers to the second coming of Christ. According to them, the miraculous gifts continue until the end of time. That explanation violates what the chapter teaches about something that was being revealed little by little and part by part until its completion. Christ will not come part by part until he comes in fullness. His second coming will not be a process but will be instantaneous "*in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump*" (**1 Cor. 15:52; Jn. 5:28-29**). We will see Jesus on the last great day as promised in **1 John 3:2**, but the second coming of Christ is not the topic of discussion in **1 Corinthians 12-14**. The topic is the purpose, use, and duration of miraculous gifts.

Divine revelation was given part by part until it came in fullness. **1 Corinthians 13:11-12** gives three illustrations regarding the issue of the duration of the

*continued on page 2*

gifts. There are things which are temporary and partial, and there are things which are mature and complete.

(1) This is illustrated by the childhood state and manhood state. (2) It is illustrated again by the partial image seen in burnished brass mirrors and the full image seen face to face. (3) It is illustrated again by partial knowledge (*"now I know in part"*) and full or complete knowledge (knowing fully as I am known fully).

The age of miraculous gifts was the age of partial and incomplete revelation, thus partial and incomplete knowledge. That temporary state would end when God completed the revelation. When the revelation would be complete, the process of revealing would cease or end.

The saints in the early days of the first century received miraculous gifts because the purpose of these gifts was to reveal and confirm the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth—the truth of the complete gospel of Christ. The completed New Testament was not put into their hands at the first proclamation of the gospel in **Acts 2**, but the process of revealing the complete gospel through apostles and prophets began on that Pentecost day. By the end of the first century, the process of revealing the complete gospel was finished—*"that which is perfect"* had been fully revealed. The miraculous gifts ended because their purpose was fulfilled. The gospel is no longer a message in the process of being revealed, but rather it is *"the faith which was once delivered unto the saints"* (**Jude 3**).

No new prophecies, knowledge, or books can be added to the New Testament today by so-called modern prophets! If a so-called modern prophet will attempt to add even one line or one word of pretended modern revelation, he will face the terrible wrath of Almighty God: *"God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book"* (**Rev. 22:18**). God commended the church at Ephesus in the closing days of the first century for exposing false claims of new and additional revelation: *"thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars"* (**Rev. 2:2**). There are no true apostles and prophets today.

The New Testament is the complete revelation of the gospel of Christ. It is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth that will save our souls. We hold the complete New Testament revelation in our hands today because *"that which is perfect"* has come.

## RECKLESS PROPHETS

*"Her prophets are reckless, treacherous men; her priests have profaned the sanctuary. They have done violence to the law"* (**Zephaniah 3:4 NASB**). It is easier to think about God judging other people, rather than having the light of examination shining on ourselves. The sins of others are always easier to identify; our own sins are only minor mistakes of little consequence. When God judges others, His is right to do so. We agree with Zephaniah when he says that the Philistines, the Moabites, the Ammonites, the Ethiopians, and the Assyrians must fall under condemnation and judgment. What happens, though, when the prophet delivers God's judgment against Israel? Were their sins obvious and well-known? Yes, even if God's own people refused to acknowledge their rebellions. Can destruction be avoided? Yes, by true humility and repentance.

*"The tyrannical city"* of **Zephaniah 3:1**, Jerusalem, represents more than just a physical location. The house of God, the temple was in Jerusalem; and God was in Jerusalem (**Ezra 1:3**). *"Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!"* (**Psalms 147:12**). The city is personified; it recognizes and worships the Lord. Now, though, the inhabitants of the city have turned away from their Creator. They reneged on their promise to honor their covenant with God (**Exodus 19:5-6**). The city refused to listen. The religious leaders were savage lions and wolves who devoured without mercy the city's inhabitants. The morning hours were time for judgment; the sin of exploiting the disadvantaged continued. *"Every morning I will destroy all the wicked of the land, so as to cut off from the city of the Lord all those who do iniquity"* (**Psalms 101:8**). Now judgment came to the city.

Rather than speaking Jehovah's true words of love, salvation, and repentance, the reckless prophets spoke words of treachery, profanity, and violence. The priests, rather than leading God's people in true worship and service, exchanged the holy for what was unholy. The priests were to *"make a distinction between the holy and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean"* (**Leviticus 10:10**). They did not keep the law; they perverted the law. In doing so, they were courting the judgment of God. Their day had come. *"Her priests have done violence to My law and have profaned My holy things; they have made no distinction between the holy and the profane, and they have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they hide their eyes from My sabbaths, and I am profaned among them"* (**Ezekiel 22:26**).

Is there an alternative to the disaster that sin brings? Yes. *"In that day you will feel no shame because of all your deeds by which you have rebelled against Me; For then I will remove from your midst your proud, exulting ones, and you will never again be haughty On My holy mountain. A Remnant of Israel. But I will leave among you humble and lowly people, and they will take refuge in the name of the Lord"* (Zephaniah 3:11-12). The LORD, Jehovah pleads with His creation to repent. Even His justice upon sin can help us see the need to repent. Our sins violate who the LORD is as our Savior. Humility, repentance, and worship. And then restoration!

***Randy Harshbarger***

## **Truth's Consequences**

The consequences of truth are sometimes bitter. Many a man has lost his job, or home, or friends, or life because of his stand for truth. Many a preacher has been ousted from the pulpit, having neither house nor salary, because he preached the truth. Many a person has had his name slandered and maligned because of truth. With all such people, love for truth is greater than love for comfort, security, or even life itself.

Unfortunate indeed is the man who looks ahead to evaluate the consequences of a position before evaluating the position itself. Such a man will rarely come to a knowledge of truth. His thoughts concerning "What will my wife think?" or "Where will I preach?" or "Won't I be condemning my good mother to hell?" or "How will I explain my change to good ole Brother Jones?" or "How will I support my family?" or "Everybody will think I'm crazy," may well blind his mind to whatever evidence is at hand. The man who really demonstrates a love for truth is the man who studies every subject objectively and then lets the consequences-whether they be good or bad-take care of themselves.

Unfortunate too is the man who complains and grieves over the consequences of truth, for truth must bring joy to the heart, whatever may be its consequences. Self-pity may lead one to "sell the truth" and to profane this precious commodity. If pity is to be felt, it must be felt for that person who has never suffered the consequences of truth, for such a man has obviously loved the praises of men more than the praises of God.

No men ever felt the consequences of truth to a greater degree than did the apostles, but they faced all such consequences *"rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name"* (Acts 5:41). Worthy!

There's the key! The man who lets a fear of consequences dictate his position on every question never suffers, for he is not worthy to suffer. Pity him! But the person who stands for truth regardless of the consequences shall suffer, for he is worthy to suffer. Rejoice with him!

What a difference between the man who is "heaven" oriented and that one who is "this world" oriented!

***by Bill Hall***

## **Needing a Change**

***by Steve Higginbotham***

You say you need a new preacher  
And maybe that is true.

But before you fire and hire  
There are two things you should do.

Consider your preacher's flaws  
Then consider the flaws in you.  
You then may find the change you need  
Is not in the pulpit, but in the pew.

You say it's time to say, "goodbye"  
And preach somewhere that's new.  
You say the church has problems  
And I'm sure that this is true.

But a church that has no problems  
Has no need of you.

Buckle down and do your work  
And God will see you through.

***Did you know the Bible does not teach  
Christians to tithe when they give to the  
Lord?***

***Christians are taught to give as they are  
prospered - 1 Corinthians 16:1,2. They are  
also taught to give liberally and cheerfully -  
2 Corinthians 9:6-8***

***We offer either in home studies in person or  
by way of Correspondence Courses.***

***Call me, Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563,  
Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ.***

***We believe in worshiping and serving the  
Lord as He has instructed in His word.***



Psa. 1:1 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.*

## HOURS OF WORSHIP

**Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study**

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

***Visitors welcome***

## OUR ADDRESS IS:

**7845 Cottonwood Dr.**

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-620-0563

**Check out the following websites:**

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

[lenexachurchofchrist.org](http://lenexachurchofchrist.org)

## Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

Deacons:

Bill Miller

Joe Hurd

### NEWS AND NOTES:

#### THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Alma Baumgartner, Denese Goring,  
Brooklyn Boyer, Tracy Richardson,  
Tina Brofft, Matt Bassford, Mark  
Walker, Steve Wimp, David and  
JoAnne Beckley.

Bible Classes - Sunday Morning -  
REVELATION - Bill Miller  
Wednesday Evening - GENESIS -  
Jim Stauffer

Sunday Sermon - Love is  
Demanding



## ***What Must I Do To Be Saved?***

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Be Baptized** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10