

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study

Date: July 7, 2019

1 Corinthians 14:6-25

1. What has Paul been talking about the last couple of weeks prior to this text?
 - a. If I have all kinds of gifts but don't have love, I am nothing.
 - b. Love is...
 - c. Everything else, including your gifts, will pass away. Faith, hope, and love remain.
 - d. Eagerly desire gifts from God that help build up the church...those around you.

2. What does Paul say in verses 6-9?
 - a. Vs 6 - What good is speaking in "tongues" unless you say something meaningful from God.
 - b. Vs 7 - Even musical instruments are not valuable unless the sound they make is distinguishable and purposeful (think about the difference between the warm-up and tuning time before the symphony and the symphony playing an actual piece).
 - c. Vs 8 - There is a difference between a trumpet playing something meaningless and a trumpet sounding the battle call. Which one is useful?
 - d. Vs 9 - All of these other things are just evidence that noise, in and of itself, is not helpful, but saying things that call people to action or bring meaningful revelation from God is valuable.

3. What does Paul say about languages in verses 10-12?
 - a. There are many languages in the world, but the entire point of a language is that it has meaning to the speaker and to the listener.
 - b. When two people try to speak, but they speak and understand different languages, there is a communication barrier and a divide between the two people.
 - c. If people in the church speak languages that others do not understand, this divides the people in the church...the opposite of what Christ is trying to do in the church (the real gift given in Acts 2 was intended to do the opposite...to undo what was done in Genesis 11...people who are focused on making a name for themselves were divided by God, but the church should make a name for Him and is united by His Spirit in order to accomplish that).

4. What do verses 13-18 mean?
 - a. Don't bother speaking words unless they have meaning...if the meaning can't be understood by somebody else, you should be praying that somebody will be able to interpret it so that it can be.
 - b. Some will argue that their unintelligible language is understood by God and that is enough...it doesn't have to be understood by people. That is fine, but isn't it better for you to engage your mind and speak and listen to God in things that both you AND He understand? God's character is to constantly try to speak to His people in ways that we understand...why would we try to speak something that He understands that we don't?
 - c. If we are praying together, isn't it possible that somebody else wants to agree with us in the things that we are asking? How can that be done if nobody else can understand what we are saying?
 - d. The point of what we do together as believers is to build one another up. If what you are doing builds you up, but doesn't build others up, you should probably not do it.

5. What does Paul mean in verses 18-21?
 - a. I think he is saying that he speaks in prayer languages that nobody understands...a bunch of them.
 - b. Paul was a missionary to the gentiles. He probably picked up many languages and dialects in his travels.
 - c. He speaks in the language of the people that he is preaching to...that builds them up...showing off all the languages that he speaks would only build him up.

6. What happens when people hear prophesy, according to verses 24-25? _____
What is important to you? _____