

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.

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# THE LENEXA EDIFIER

Anne Surace 2010

## WHEN WILL SPIRITUAL GIFTS CEASE?

by Jim Stauffer

Paul says in **1 Cor. 13:8-12** they will. He then provides us with some illustrating phrases that tell us when and why they will fail or cease. *“Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.”* (**1 Cor. 13:8-12**)

First he assures us that love will never fail and this assurance comes in contrast to the statement that the gifts of prophecy, tongues and knowledge will (**1 Cor. 12**).

Next comes his explanation of when and why they will cease. He speaks of the knowledge, prophecy being acquired partially rather than all at one time. *...We know in part and we prophesy in part but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.* This he compares to the gradual acquisition of knowledge and maturity that occurs in life from childhood to manhood. The point is when we reach manhood, we put away childish thinking and communication due to greater knowledge and wisdom.

The clear implication is that these gifts will cease at a certain point when something becomes mature. And what would that be? Well, we must overcome some of the immaturity of the Corinthians and realize there was a very pragmatic purpose for these gifts. They were to communicate God's word. The prophets were not necessarily foretelling future events so much as revealing portions of God's word (**1 Cor. 14:29-32**).

Now Paul is telling those at Corinth there will be a time when the partial will be done away because the perfect has come. We have identified the partial as prophecy, knowledge and tongues which all played a part in revealing the will of God to those in the first century prior to a completed revelation such as we have today. The very logical conclusion then is the partial and the perfect must refer to the same thing since one replaces the other.

He next uses the metaphor of the mirror. He currently sees *...in a mirror dimly, but then face to face...* The dim vision in the mirror is during the time of the partial revelation which helps us understand the face to face is when there is complete revelation. The revelation was accomplished partially until it was completed. At that time a full clear vision was available, just as we have today with the complete revelation of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

There are other portions of the completed revelation that enable us to know these gifts were never intended to remain until the coming of the Lord. When Philip preached in Samaria and many were baptized, Peter and John came of necessity to lay hands on those believers for them to receive the Holy Spirit (**Acts 8:14-17**). A similar event occurs in **Acts 19:1-7** when Paul baptized some in Ephesus. Apollos had baptized them with the baptism of John and they had not received the Holy Spirit. Paul laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. What does this teach us? The only people who could impart these spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit were the apostles.

The obvious conclusion is when the apostles were all gone from this world there would be no more imparting of spiritual gifts. When the apostles were gone the revelation was complete as well. This was

obviously the time when *...the perfect....* came, the revelation was complete. We then can understand what it means to *..see face to face...and ....to know fully just as I also have been fully known*. The mystery of the gospel is complete.

## HE MUST REIGN

*“For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet” (I Cor. 15:25).*

What an awesome text! It demands the “Hallelujah Chorus” to do it justice. It declares most obviously that Jesus reigns now. Most people think of His reign only in terms of the future. But He reigns! And He shall continue to reign until all enemies are conquered, diminished, and removed.

But when we consider the condition of creation and the rebellion of humanity, the crown of His creative and redeeming work, we are moved to ask: in what manner and by what means does Jesus reign?

### HE REIGNS THROUGH THE UNIQUENESS OF HIS MESSAGE.

As we reflect upon history it appears that ideas rule the world. Basically, there are not many ideas that have reigned in the societies, cultures, and governments of the earth. There are only a few with minor variations that have captured and continue to capture the imaginations of mankind.

The message of divine atonement for sin is unique. It is incomparable. It goes down to the deepest roots of human need. It has changed the cannibal. It has renewed the prodigal. It has subdued the rebel. It pierces the heart, finds its path into the guilty conscience, and sheds the light of pardon and peace that passes understanding. No music is so sweet and no power so mighty as the message of the gospel: *“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).*

The world is full of messages. Most of them are bad news. The gospel is good news. It proclaims that the God who was dismissed by the human race has returned with an offer of mercy and a determination to save Adam’s seed. This message is far greater than that of the pantheist who speaks of the immanence of Nature. It declares the immanence of grace. It tells us that God has not forsaken us. He wants to help us. It proclaims that there is eternal life. Every other message stops at the grave. The message of Jesus has brought “life and immortality to light.” Death has lost its sting. The grave has lost its victory.

## HE REIGNS BECAUSE HE IS THE FIRST PERSON IN HISTORY TO WIN VICTORY OVER DEATH.

He has no rival and no peer. He is the first and, so far, the only, to triumph over the grave. He is *“the first fruits of them who have fallen asleep” (I Cor. 15:20)*. He was not a ghost or phantom who appeared on earth for forty days: *“Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have” (Luke 24:39)*. The events are recorded by intelligent and sober witnesses. All the great advances in science and technology pale in comparison to the resurrection glory of Jesus Christ.

### HE REIGNS BY MEANS OF HIS CONTINUED, ALTHOUGH INVISIBLE, PRESENCE IN THE WORLD.

The dead cannot have the influence that He continues to exercise. Our world is dominated by powerful personalities. Many are evil and unworthy as was Hitler, Stalin, Mao. They filled the headlines — until they passed from the scene. Jesus continues to grab the hearts of mankind for He lives and reigns.

That a high level of morality is possible without faith in the living God and His Son I will not deny. Pagans such as Seneca and Marcus Aurelius with their philosophical virtues readily demonstrate this reality. Yet, such placed beside Paul with His descriptions of the beauties of his new life in Christ, shows that there is no comparison. No one but Jesus could have fashioned Paul. He said it himself: *“It is no longer I who lives, but Christ lives in me...” (Gal. 2:20).*

While philosophy has occasionally succeeded in making an admirable moral character of a respectable subject, only Jesus has accomplished such with the lowest and most debased of mankind. Christ starts the same way with every person. He starts with a new birth. He has not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. He is come to seek and to save that which is lost. He is able to save to the uttermost all that come to God by Him. This is where He reigns supreme.

Is He successful? John says it is a multitude which no man can number, out of all tribes and peoples and nations and languages. Can any power on earth match that? Where can human ideas and philosophies produce such a multitude whose voices are as the sound of many waters?

The message and operation of Jesus Christ is the one thing that has remained triumphantly unchanged throughout the years and centuries. It has never needed to be remodeled or updated. The old story of the cross is still the same blessed story. Nothing has ever been repeated so often and so long. Since it was first proclaimed, human theories of all kinds have

undergone mammoth changes. Science has repudiated its dogmatism. Social and political ideas have evolved and continue to evolve. The world has been trying to make all things new but can never quite find the answer. God's answer has never changed. It is the same message. It stands alone and unique. Jesus is King. He reigns. Men have tried to change the message rather than letting it change them.

Jesus must reign to the end. He came once. He is coming again. He has pledged Himself to complete the work of redemption. All the world shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with power and great glory. It will complete the triumph of His reign. *"The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ"* (Rev. 11:15).

**Ken Green**

### **Undeniable Harmony** *by Wayne Goff*

Some have tried to argue in the past that the church and the kingdom are two separate institutions. For example, the premillennial professors tell us that the kingdom was planned by God, presented by Jesus Christ, but rejected by the Jews. Therefore, Jesus set up the church as a limited substitute until He can return again to set up the eternal kingdom. This chart proves that the church is the kingdom, not that the church is a substitute while the kingdom is yet future. These verses also show that the kingdom is not material but spiritual.

#### **Identifying Marks of the Kingdom/Church**

1. Beginning date and place **Isaiah 2:2-3 Acts 2:1-47**
2. Boundary of territory **Daniel 2:44 Mark 16:15**
3. Owner of institution **John 18:36 Matthew 16:18**
4. Ruler over its inhabitants **1 Timothy 6:15 Eph. 5:23**
5. Governing Law in the realm **Isaiah 2:3 Acts 2:38-47**
6. Christ gave the Keys **Matthew 16:19 Matthew 16:18**
7. The terms of entrance **John 3:5 Acts 2:38-47**
8. Those holding membership **Colossians 1:13; 2**
9. The memorial supper set **Matt. 26:29 1 Cor. 11:20-27**
10. Its glory & exaltation **Isaiah 2:2-3 Ephesians 3:21**
11. Reward for the faithful **Matt. 25:31-34 1 Cor. 15:58**
12. Time of Deliverance **1 Cor. 15:24 1 Thess 4:16-17**

### **"Just a Member"** **Don Truex**

Have you ever felt that you have nothing to offer because you are "just a member"? Let me assure you,

there is no such thing as an "ordinary member of the church." That is like saying you have an ordinary eye, or hand, or foot. Every member is vital to the body, both physical and spiritual. What can you do? 1. You can warmly welcome the visitors to our services, making them feel "at home." The importance of this can hardly be measured. 2. You can act upon the announcements made during the assembly regarding the sick, area meetings, maintenance needs, etc. 3. You can see your neighborhood and workplace as your "mission field." Provide the proper example and then invite and teach. *~via The Gospel Observer, Denham Springs, Louisiana; Taken from Market Street Messenger*

### **Spiritual knowledge is the result of revelation, not imagination!**

*LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walks to direct his steps.*

**(Jeremiah 10:23)**

If spiritual knowledge is subjective (the result of each person's own imagination and interpretation), there is no truth. If objective spiritual truth exists, it must exist outside us.

The Bible claims to be the revelation of the truth of God **(1 Corinthians 2)**. Consider the claim. If the claim is valid, hear what the Bible reveals about God and our existence.

**Don Bunting**

***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.***

**Things people believe are in the Bible, but are not!**

One such thing is "Once saved always saved."  
Did you know this is not taught by God in the Bible?  
We learn such when we study God's 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**

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### News and Notes:

#### Sick in need of Prayers:

Alma Baumgartner, Jan Patrick,  
Denese Goring, Pat Gaines,  
Brooklyn Boyer, Tracy  
Richardson, Jordan Moody,  
Don Craig, Tina Brofft, Ken  
Green, Matt Bassford, Dan  
Edmonds and Tim Young.

#### Bible Classes:

**Sunday Morning - Hebrews -**  
Jim Stauffer

**Wednesday Evening - 1&2**  
**Peter and Jude - Ron Peck**

**Sunday Sermon: Darwin:**  
**True or False**



## 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