

A Letter of Apologetics

Philippians 1:7

“Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence *apologia* and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.”

The Maturity of the Church According to True Christian History. (In response to Strange Fire Conference)

Introduction:

1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith was formed during the 'reformation period' regarding mostly to the controversy of that time, Christ's Deity: Christology. All Baptist Pastors gathered together and were able to declare the “Confession of Faith” that until now, at this present age, we adhere to this declaration of Faith according to Scripture.

After hundred of years, in the 20'th century, all Baptist Pastors in the philippines who are members of the REBAP- Reformed Baptist Association of the Philippines gathered together to declare again according to the controversy of that time regarding women in the Pulpit as women Pastor, during the early 90's and were able to declare, once more, according to the Scripture, that there is NO such thing as 'women pastor' in the Pulpit.

During the year 2000, ARBCA- Association of Reformed Baptist Churches in America, all Baptist Pastors who are still holding the confession of faith 1689, gathered together once more and were able to declare in regards to the controversy of whether the Church should be cessationist or not (topics about the used of speaking in tongues-Charismatic movement) and were able to declare, that we, who are still adhere to 1689 should be, according to Chapter one of the confession, no more revelatory gifts in this present age that the Scripture is good enough for us to determine and apply as the only basis of christian faith.

In last year's “Strange Fire Conference” with John MacArthur, all Pastors whether Baptist or Presbyterian, gathered together and had the conference topics of Charismatic Movement's unscriptural evidences were proclaimed that we should be a cessationist according to Scripturte.

“What is of more interest in this comparison is that, despite the similarity of substance, there is a real difference of emphasis and appreciation. This is significant at times. For example, to choose a stark instance, there is agreement that the new Calvinism includes charismatics and non-charismatics. To Mr Piper and to many new Calvinists, that is evidently a neutral feature; to me and to others, that would be a matter of genuine concern. I do not know that that is a matter decided by one's allegiance to what is called old or new Calvinism.”

Jeremy Walker in Reformation 21.

On John Piper's 12 Features on New Calvinism that was given in the Westminster Conference shows that He does not know the Scripture, his number 8th says, “The New Calvinism includes both charismatics and non-charismatics.” That is the reason why he responded few hours right after J. MacArthur's StrangeFire Conference.

This letter is in the defence and confirmation of the gospel.
From the Greek word *apologia*, a plea or an apologetic and at the same time, a clearing answer of defence. This is where the English word *apologetics* came from.

Dear brethren, that we are supposed to be under the grace of God our Lord Jesus Christ and Saviour,

The most controversial part in the history of “Free Grace Reformed Baptist Church” in Lethbridge that triggered to decide and ceased for the fellowship *koinonia* (there is supposed to be one thing in common in the congregation) is the speaking in tongues and the doctrine of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Will there be any more prophecy or tongues after the day of Pentecost?
Will there be any more prophets in this latter years or after 2000 years?
Is tongues necessary when it was started in the early 19th century?
What is the significance when the Bible as the word of God is already complete and sufficient to establish truth against any questions regarding Christian doctrine or confession of faith?

Some brethren will answer: “what if it is being experienced by some even those kids who in one way or another, showing changes in their life, such as repentance, number of hours of prayers, especially their attitude was changed?”

And they will continue, “I don't know if it is really coming from the Devil or coming from God.”

Brethren, If this is your basis, your faith is being based on experienced and not according to the Scripture.

It is the same thing for those people whose religions are through the “graven images” they will say that their prayers were answered, granted and even provided, that the basis of their faith is tradition and experienced and not the Scripture.

If you say “I don't know” it means you don't know the Scripture.

You are like the Romish, the Budhist or the Mormons!!!

The most important text to have proper understanding in this controversy of whether cessationist or non-cessationist with the necessity of speaking in tongues is the center of the whole text from I Corinthians 12 to 14 which is chapter 13.

Does all have the same gifts? Shall we continue speaking in tongues?

From I Corinthians 12:29-30:

Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all workers of miracles?

Mei pantēs apostoloi? Mei pantēs propheitai? Mei pantēs didaskaloi? Mei pantēs dunameis?

The Greek word *mei* expects a negative answer with each group. This Greek word is a primary particle of qualified negation which gives an expression of denial. The direct and correct English translation is “no” or “not less” which gives the correct rendering as “Not all apostles? Not all prophets? When the questions translated “are all apostles? Of course the answer is “NO!” (It can not be answered by Yes!!!)

So in verse 30, do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? Same thing, in Greek:

Mei pantēs glōssais lalousin? This is a question where the right and only answer is “NO!”

Observation: “Not all” have the same gifts. If the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the necessity of speaking in tongues should be the sign of having a normal Christian life, then all members of the “Charismatic-Pentecostal Church” should speak in tongues. This will be against what the Scripture says in this context. There is denial and inconsistency to the scripture even if so ever we apply this in our present day. According to the theology of Bob Davison from Medicine Hat who twice invited as speaker at “Free Grace” that to have a normal Christian life is to experience both Baptism of the HS and the necessity of speaking in tongues. If this is true, all the members of his church are inconsistent to the word of God in the context of “**not all speaks in tongues**”.

This is only one failure that we can see from their “doctrine of inconsistency to the word of God”.

Since that not all have the same gifts of tongues, etc., Paul, gave a more interesting reason to be active, which in v31, from the Greek word *Zeiloō*, be zealously affect to the most important and best gift, which Paul introduced with “and I will show you the most excellent way”, then He goes into the next Chapter, 13.

Note:

v. 31 *Zeiloute*, **Verb-Present Active Imperative-2nd Person Plural**

Zeilo-ōw, means zealously affect, to burn with zeal.

Kreittona **adjective-Accusative Plural Neuter**

Kreitton, means more useful, serviceable, advantageous or excellent.

Charismata, **Noun-Accusative Plural Neuter**

Charisma, means a favour with which one receives without any merit of his own, it is the gift of divine grace of God.

hyperbolein, **noun-Accusative Singular Feminine**

hyperbolei, beyond all measure, pre-eminence, superiority, excellence.

hyper, over beyond, more than

ballow, to throw or let go of a thing without caring where it falls.

Deikumi, **Verb-Present Active Indicative-1st Person Singular**

Deiku-ow, metaphorically speaking means to give evidence or proof of a thing, or to show by words or teach.

“I show you a way par excellence”

“I show you a supremely excellent way”

Paul unhesitatingly ranks some spiritual gifts above others.

Though I speak with tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity...

Ean tais glowssais town anthrowpown lalow kai town angelown agapein...

The Greek word *ean*, a conditional particle or conjunction, means “if” or “in case”

Agape is the most important gift for us to experience than anything else: whether we have gift of prophecy, have understanding of the mysteries of God or have the knowledge of God, or have faith that could remove mountains, or give some of my things to the poor, or sacrifice my self, if there is no Agapei, it's nothing, v. 3 *outhen* from the word *oudeis* means no man or nothing.

Paul gave the most important gift of all, *Agapei*, in contrast to the spiritual ecstatic gifts that is being misunderstood, misused and over emphasized today. (The wiles of the Devil)

The ecstatic gifts are worthless and equally so are the teaching gifts (prophecy and knowledge of mysteries). He gave a contrast that places love *agapei* above them and essential to them.

There are many things to consider in studying *agapei* up to verse 5, but we have to go to the center or key verse of understanding to the controversy of speaking in tongues.

Paul gave a biblical reason that *Agapei* will continue, will not lose or become inefficient

v. 8 “Agape never faileth”, η αγαπη ουδεποτε εκπιπτει, *oudepote*—never: *ekpiptei*, from the word **Verb-Present Active Indicative-3rd Person Singular** *ekpiptow*, means lose or become inefficient, fall.

Whether there be prophecies, they shall **fail**.

Whether- *eite*, a conjunction means if, or, whether. It is a primary particle of **conditionality**.

Fail - *katargeitheatontai*, **Verb-Future Passive Indicative-3rd Person Plural** of the word *katarge-ow* means abolish, cease or destroy.

Whether there shall be tongues, they shall **cease**.

Cease- *pausontai*, **Verb-Future Middle Deponent Indicative-3rd Person Plural**

Of the Greek word, *pau-ow*, means to stop, restrain, cease, leave, refrain, quit.

Whether knowledge, it shall **vanish away**.

Vanish away is one Greek word, *katargeitheatetai* **Verb-Future Passive Indicative-3rd Person Singular** same word used in Prophecy, *katarge-ow*.

Just to illustrate, as an example of “gifts” Paul gave a conditional statement, and this statement, with the gifts of prophecy, tongues and knowledge, all of these will **stop, ceased, abolished, destroyed, quit, vanish away, “kaput”**. Note that all the verbs used here in verse 8 are in the **indicative mood**, means **it will surely stop!!!!**

Note: When the verb is in Subjunctive Mood, in layman's language, might or might not happen and if the verb is in Indicative Mood, it will surely happen.

Now we go to **key verse** and **key word** from that verse.

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

v. 10 the word “perfect” is in Greek word *teleion*, **Adjective-Accusative Singular Neuter** of the word *teleios*, means brought to an end or finished, that which is perfect...of men, full grown, adult or mature.

The Greek word *teleios* can be translated directly to English with its meaning as:

1. complete
2. mature
3. perfect.

But which from these three words the word *teleios* can be translated according to it’s context in this verse or the whole chapter?

Let’s assume the word perfect from which **actually** in KJV were translated and which the people who do believe in the speaking in tongues today, say it is relevant.

Their reason, there is only one place where Christians will become perfect, in heaven, so while we are still on earth, we can speak in tongues even (in the beginning of the 19’th century) today. But can we see “heaven” in this context? NO!

In such a rule in hermeneutics or exegesis, scripture or verse can be interpreted properly or get support from another scripture (verse).

Note: same word used in.....Ephesians

Ephesians 4:13 “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a **perfect** man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”

So, this word *teleios* can also be used and translated “perfect” while the Christians are still in their flesh. Eph. 4:13

Now we go to the word “mature”, With respect to it’s context, we observe verse 11.

v. 11 “I put away childish things” the word “put away” is one Greek word, which is *kateirgeika* **-Perfect Active Indicative-1st Person Singular** , same word used in other verses in this chapter, *katarge-ow*.

In verse 11 is an illustration of Paul for us to understand why these ecstatic gift of speaking in tongues is temporary in nature, why it will cease *pau-ow*, leave or refrain. The beginning or birth of the “Church” in general during the day of Pentecost, is being compared by Paul to the “childish things” of a person’s life. When we become a man (matured) “I put away childish things”, Note the word “put away” is the same Greek word, *katarge-ow*. And take note of the mood of this verb, **indicative mood**, it will surely cease!!!!!!!!!!!!It is in the right context. Then.....

What if we used the word “complete” with respect to the following words in verse 10, “then that which is in part shall be done away”. We can use the word “complete” because Paul is saying that when that which is in part, (take note of the word “part” from the Greek word *meros* means portion or piece), shall be done *katarge-ow* away.

When Paul said, that knowledge, tongues and prophecy, they shall cease, stop, end or finished, these three words can be summed up to one equivalent word....”**revelation**” As part of the gift that the Holy Spirit is giving during the day of Pentecost, the birth of the Church.

Time will come that these *revelation* will stop as the Bible or the Scripture is already finished and complete, we are in the age of maturity of church history of redemption! When the English Bible from Tyndale in 1525 to the KJV in 1611 were printed, the Scripture which is the word of God (God-breathe, from the book of Timothy) is already finished and complete (telei-os)

Then somewhere during 18’th century, the angel of God whose name is Moroni gave a **new revelation** to Joseph Smith which started the Mormon Religion of the Latter Day Saints (LDS) and during the early 19’th century, speaking in tongues which is also under the category of “revelation” were experienced by some “so-called-christians” were established even up to this present time. In addition to, the Romish had also received “new revelation” which is being given through the apparition of the woman, impersonated by Satan as “the mother of god”, the virgin Mary. The latest apparition in Garabandal shows that the “Woman clothed with the sun” is the fulfillment of the book of revelation chapter 12. All these when experienced and sighted should be checked and double check, or properly investigated in reference to the word of God, the Bible or the Scripture.

If it is not, I repeat, not according to the Scripture, using “orthotomounta”, *cutting straight the word of truth* as Paul’s instruction to Timothy in his II book of chapter 2, verse 15, then it is not Biblical!! We must go back to the “Word of God” with highest regard to “hermeneutics”, to study, check, refute and rebuke, if it is not, then we can continue shouting the language of the “Reformers” SOLA SCRIPTURA!!

Are these “**new revelation**” biblical or coming from new dimension of mysticism?

Of course, It is not biblical, it is inconsistent to the Scripture in I Corinthians 13.

Will there be any speaking in tongues in Jehovah’s Witnesses and the Mormon Church or in the ancient religion of Buddhism? Or Roman Catholics, Of course NO, they are already mislead!! With the wiles of the Devil such as speaking in tongues will be penetrating the **true church** to dismantle, to break into pieces, to disunite, to mislead some or **even to scatter them as “sheep without a Shepherd”**.

What then is the significance of mentioning verse 11 in this context? Paul gave another significant illustration for us to be able to have proper understanding why these signs during Pentecost will cease. The word *teleios* when properly translated in this context should follow the second meaning of the word which is “matured”. Paul is imparting to the church of Corinth that these gifts is the same as the things the child plays they were young. There is a part of our life when we attain maturity, that we leave this “childish things” but rather become matured as a man. Maybe playing with your BMW or your Digital Nikon Camera instead of your “plastic camera toy”. Note when this things happened to us, it is (with the indicative verb used) sure that we stop those “childish things”.^{verse 10} “But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.” Note again, that the word *katargeow* in Greek was mentioned **four times** in this context: two in verse 8 and another in this verse 10! It is in the **passive-indicative** verb and also in verse 11 as **active indicative** verb “I put away”. Finished!!! You still want to continue to speak in tongue, then you’re finished!!!!!! Charismatic Movement as non-cessationist is UN-Biblical!

This letter will be a letter of appeal, an apologetics in nature and in defense to the true gospel. This letter is intended for those who in one way or another will reject or will acknowledge the Truth: Based on the “Bible” as the word of God, Inerrant, Infallible, Accurate, Reliable, can not be Criticized nor Condemned, will not return to God void and Unchangeable.

The very same reason for those “Reformers” to say
“Sola Scriptura”

This is the only way to establish the biblical teaching and the most important of all, which is Agapei, the expression of having compassion with other people who are being misled by the “wiles of the Devil”.

On the other hand: But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an *answer* **Apologia** to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and *fear*. I Peter 3:15

Fear, in the original language, Phobos, means exceedingly afraid and with terror! This letter is the expression of Agapei, “hopeth all things” *elpidzow*, hoping with trusting God that all things work together for good, for the other brethren who are lost.

Same word used in I Peter 3:15 “a reason of the hope”, a reason of the *elpis* from the word *elpow*, means faith or hope!!!

There is a biblical reason for this letter of apologetic, hoping, trusting that God is going to make the other brethren who are being misled by the wiles of the devil to be recovered in Christ Jesus.

To the brethren whose eyes will be opened or to those whose eyes will still be closed, the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled again in this letter of defense:

“By hearing, ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with

their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and Jesus Christ should heal them.”

May those people whose eyes will be opened, God bless you.

Agapei will not fail!!

Agapei will not fail!!

Amein!

Αγωνιδζου of FAITH!

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