

Tongues and Prophecy (14:1-25)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. The Great Divide: Cessationists vs. Charismatics
 - B. Why discuss Tongues and Prophecy
 - C. Context / Outline of sermon / Read text / Pray
 - D. Illustration: The pendulum – a Baptist turned Pentecostal
- II. **The Superiority of Prophecy to Tongues in the church (1 Cor 14:1-20)**
 - A. The Proposition stated (14:1-5)
 - 1. A Course Correction
 - 2. Tongues in Corinth vs. Tongues at Pentecost
 - 3. Tongues are good!
 - 4. But because the unintelligible, they do not edify the assembly
 - B. The Proposition defended (14:6-20)
 - 1. Illustration of musical instruments (14:6-13)
 - a. **Application:** Seek to abound in gifts that edify the church
 - b. Examples
 - 2. Conclusions (14:14-20)
 - a. While prayers in tongues are valid, pray with understanding so that all who hear may say, “Amen”
 - b. **Application:** Pray so that you are understood
 - c. Paul is thankful that he prays in tongues
 - d. “the mind” in worship – “worship in Spirit and in Truth”
 - e. Grow up, church is not a circus
- III. **The Superiority of Prophecy for the unbeliever (1 Cor 14:21-25)**
 - A. The unbeliever will not listen to tongues
 - 1. Isaiah 28 (v.21)
 - 2. He will think we are mad! (v. 23)
 - a. We do not ignore the unbeliever in our midst
 - 3. He will not be convicted of his sin (v. 24-25)
 - a. Our goal to reach the unbeliever
- IV. **A More Direct Application – our use of Tongues and Prophecy**
 - A. Tongues Defined: *A Holy Spirit inspired utterance that is unintelligible apart from interpretation.*
 - 1. Are tongues a real earthly human language?
 - a. Linguists say “no”
 - b. Experience says “no”
 - c. So are we to stop tongues all together then?
 - 2. Understanding one another across the divide
 - a. Reformed folk make the best Charismatics
 - B. Prophecy Defined: *A God-given gifts whereby some Christians receive and convey revealed information from God.*
 - 1. More than mere expository preaching
 - 2. Not on equal par with Scripture
 - a. Objections: “The canon of Scripture” & “Sola Scriptura”
 - C. **Application:** Prophecy! (Num 11:28, Joel 2:28-29) ... with care!