

THE REASON FOR REVELATION

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From 1 Corinthians 14. THE REASON FOR REVELATION: TO PRODUCE A SHARED STATE OF MIND WITH THE ALMIGHTY

First from v. 1-5:

#1. To "prophecy," or to speak revealed knowledge into our temporal circumstance, is to be highly desired (v. 1.)

#2. This is so because it is true, and because revealed truth has the power of "edification," "exhortation" and "consolation" (v. 3.) The importance: Temporal conditions, material conditions, psychological conditions, social conditions, and culture conditions lean heavily upon the believer! This is a constant of our earthly life. It will never change!

#3. The problem: We can incline to our experience as conclusory--reaching decisions based on the projection of experience as the only valid course of action. Example: "Things are running against me; I expect the worse."

#4. *Revelation, meaning propositional truth; truth given in sentence form.* These complete thoughts conduce to a condition of mind: edified (lifted above our set of circumstances), exhorted (directly taught how to deal with conclusions based on mere experience), consoled (reasoning beyond material conditions.)

#5. The believing mind can rise above conclusory experience. Scripture makes this doable. Some in Corinth could not grasp this meaning! We are to be *word driven*. The world hates this. It's beyond their reach. God teaches us to think like He does.

From 1 Corinthians 14. THE REASON FOR REVELATION: TO PRODUCE A SHARED STATE OF MIND WITH THE ALMIGHTY, PART 2

Second from v. 6-19: THE SHARED STATE OF MIND

#1. The issue of spiritual betterment or "profit" (v. 6) comes to us as the product of "revelation", "knowledge", "prophecy" and "teaching" (v. 6). There is then *the complex of spiritual learning: revelation, teaching, and the mind.*

#2. The Lord wants to build the fruitful mind (v. 14.) To do that, revelation crosses the gulf between eternity and time. This means that God is concerned withmaking "knowledge" a shared state of mind between himself and the believer (v. 9-12.) "Tongues" without

interpretation (v. 13) cannot engage the human mind. But propositional revelation can and does engage the mind.

#3. The point of revelation is to realize this shared state of mind with God.

#4. Paul's desire was to speak his shared state of mind into the world of human experience (v. 18, 19.)

#5. We should read the Bible in that way.

#6. One might imagine what such a shared state of mind would mean in law, culture, society, human psychology and general behavior.

#7 The church is obliged to yield to the revealed state of mind.

From 1 Corinthians 14. THE REASON FOR REVELATION: TO PRODUCE A SHARED STATE OF MIND WITH THE ALMIGHTY, PART 3

Third: From v. 20-25: THE WORD OF GOD OPENS THE DOOR TO PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION

#1. Personal transformation requires spiritual maturity (v. 20.) Revealed truth is given to generate the continuum of personal transformation.

#2. Meaning: The believer, to pursue personal transformation, has to consciously construct a dynamic relation between SCRIPTURE --> and THE MIND --> and BEHAVIOR. The Word of God leads to mature thinking, which enables mature behavior, which results in transformation.

#3. "Evil" which is personal is repulsed (v. 20.) Some consider all this too intrusive because Scripture is here to regulate our reasoning and behavior. "But prophecy is for a sign not to unbelievers but to those who believe" (v. 22.)

#4. A believer or a church not pursuing personal transformation does not comprehend the reason for the Bible. To those, the Bible is all but useless (v. 23.)

#5. A purpose of revealed truth is to convict men of their sins (v. 24.) "Secrets of the heart are disclosed" (v. 25;) one will "fall down on his face" in acknowledgement of sin; that one will recognize that God is among the transformed (v. 25.)

From 1 Corinthians 14. THE REASON FOR REVELATION: TO PRODUCE A SHARED STATE OF MIND WITH THE ALMIGHTY, PART 4

Fourth from v. 26-33: TO ACHIEVE ETERNAL OUTCOMES

#1. The source of eternal outcomes is a "psalm," a "teaching," a "revelation," a "tongue," an "interpretation" (v. 26.)

#2. It's all rooted in revealed propositional truth. The unified purpose is edification (v. 26,) learning (v. 31,) exhortation (v. 31.) These are personal outcomes that the Lord intends for every believer.

#3. There is a possible serious weak point. Between propositional truth, and teaching outcomes, stands the believer's behavior. The church composed of imperfect individuals has to be careful in this regard: We either generate friction for the purpose of God, or we are part of its fulfillment.

#4. The lack of self-constraint among believers in Corinth; the disorder in their conduct; the improper exercise of spiritual gifts -- all constituted unnecessary friction against the Lord's intended outcomes (v. 27-32.)

#5. True biblical teaching received by the church, and the necessary corresponding competence in propagating it, reduces the problem of human friction: "for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints" (v. 33.)

From 1 Corinthians 14. A SUMMATION, PART 5

#1. Why did some believers in the church in Corinth misuse spiritual gifts? What explains the chaos in their midst directly related to those spiritual blessings?

#2. The answer is clearly put in the Text. These brethren did not comprehend the importance of revelation, the place of the word of God, nor the purpose of propositional revealed truth. Many were captivated by the experience of speaking in "tongues."

#3. The purpose of revelation is to generate a shared way of thinking between God and the believer.

#4. Verses 1-5 teach us that "prophecy" is the best form of revelation to carry a believer beyond reliance on conclusory experience. We are to reason about material existence from this shared way of thinking.

#5. Verses 6-19 open the way to spiritual growth and betterment. The fruitful mind is developed. This phenomenon is the product of a common mind existing between each one and the Lord.

#6. Verses 20-25 tell us that personal transformation is within our reach. "Evil" is expunged from our minds. The Word of God is utilized to regulate reasoning and behavior.

#7. Verses.26-33 project the idea that this shared condition of mind conduces to the very strong personal desire to be of service to God in achieving his outcomes.

#8. All of this is germane to us today. Everything of super importance can only be had through the onset of the shared state of mind between the Almighty and every believer.