



PREACHING THE CROSS
God's Remedy for a Troubled Church

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

The Superiority of Prophecy

Sunday, March 19, 2017

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TEXT: 1 Corinthians 14:1–5

Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. 2 For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries. 3 But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. 4 One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church. 5 Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.

I. THE NEED FOR PROPHECY

A. Jesus Left Revelation Unfinished at His Death, Burial, Resurrection and Exaltation, John 13:7a; 16:12.

B. Jesus Prophesied the Completion of Biblical Revelation, John 16:13,

C. Jesus Chose Certain Men Through Whom He Would Give this Revelation, John 15:26-27; 16:13; Act 1:8; 9:4–6.

D. Jesus Sketched in Advance the General Content of this Revelation and Prophecy:

It would be:

1. Historical– John 14:26
2. Doctrinal– John 16:14-15
3. Prophetical– John 16:13b
4. Final– John 16:13a

E. Jesus Pre-authenticated the New Testament Scriptures, Matt 10:19-20; John 15:20.

The gift of prophecy was needed during a time when the New Testament was not yet completed.

II. THE NATURE OF PROPHECY

A. The Definitions of Prophecy

In the Bible, the prophets were human messengers who spoke on the behalf of God. They communicated His divine message and interpreted His will to the people.

B. The Proclamation of Prophecy

It Is *Similar* but Not *Identical* to Modern Day Preaching.

1. The distinctions

Modern day preaching is the delivery of a carefully prepared sermon that in this dispensation must come directly from God's inspired Word.

Biblical prophecy was the delivery and proclamation of a message that a prophet directly received from God by way of either a vision, sign or a dream, cf. Numbers 12:5-8.

2. The similarities

- a. Prophecy was proclaimed through a human mouthpiece or the prophet, Deut. 18:15-18.
- b. Prophecy was revelation that originates from God.
 - (1) The prophet was to give God's true revelation: *It must come from God* (E.g., *The Minor Prophets*).

The prophet was to proclaim the message that he had received from God. The Message must come from God!

- (2) The prophet who gave his own message insisting it was God's, was to be killed, Jer 23:16-17; Eze. 13:2-6; Deu. 18:20-22.
- (3) The prophets were called by God, Jer. 1:4.
- c. The prophets could not contradict revealed commands, Deu. 13:1-10.

III. THE REASON FOR PROPHECY, 1 Cor 14:3, 4, 5, 12, 26.

*These three words— **edification, exhortation and consolation**— set forth the parameters of the divine intent of prophecy. It indicates that in Paul's view the primary focus of a prophetic utterance is not the future, but the present edification and growth of the church.*

IV. THE APPLICATION

- A. God's Mouthpieces must Proclaim God's Message as Revealed in the Scripture.**
- B. God's Mouthpieces Who Serve as Preachers must Be Called, Rom 10:13–15.**
- C. God's People must Harken to God's Message.**