

Introduction

The gift of tongues was for a sign to the unbelieving Jews (1 Cor. 1:22; 14:21-22) during the transition period (from Israel to the Body of Christ) recorded in the book of Acts. After the transition period, and the completion of the word of God, the sign gifts CEASED for this present age (1 Cor. 13:8-13). In 1 Cor. 14 (written during the transition period), the apostle Paul taught that it was pointless to speak in an unknown tongue (a language that the speaker and hearers did not know) in the church if there was nobody present with the gift of interpretation. The purpose of speaking in the local church is to TEACH others in a way they can understand for their edification, exhortation, and comfort (v.3). He said it is better to speak FIVE WORDS that can be understood than 10,000 words in an unknown tongue. What could be taught with just five words? Let's consider some key doctrines given in biblical statements of just five words. God has an amazing way of saying much with few words.

In the Beginning God Created (Gen. 1:1)

This plain opening statement of the scripture is foundational to everything else. If it is wrong, how can we trust the rest of the Bible? No wonder Satan has always attacked the doctrine of creation!

We did not get here by chance and some kind of evolutionary process. Man was created by God and has a purpose. Jesus Christ was a creationist (Mk. 10:6; 13:19), and He knows the truth about the beginning because He was there. He is the Creator (Jn. 1:1-3)! He made the world about 6,000 years ago in six literal days. When He looked at everything He made, He said it was very good. Well, there is a lot in this world now that is very bad! What happened?

By One Man Sin Entered (Rom. 5:12)

Adam was given dominion on the earth. Satan coveted that dominion, and he appeared as a beautiful serpent in the garden to tempt the woman and bring about the fall of man. The woman was deceived, but Adam knowingly and willingly disobeyed the clear commandment of God concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam was the representative head of the human race, and when he fell, he brought sin and death into the world. He was created in the image of God, but all that are born into this world are born in the image of fallen Adam (Gen. 5:3). We are all sinners (Rom. 3:10, 23). The penalty for sin is death and eternal damnation (Rom. 6:23; Rev. 20:14).

How can a sinner be saved?

Christ Died for Our Sins (1 Cor. 15:3)

In this passage the apostle Paul declares the gospel that he received by revelation of Jesus Christ (vs.1-4). The gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24) is that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day. Notice that religious works, like water baptism, are not part of the gospel Christ revealed through Paul for this present age (Gal. 1:6-12). Paul plainly said that he was not sent to baptize but to preach the gospel (1 Cor. 1:17)! Those who try to add works to the finished work of Christ have perverted the gospel of Christ. The three-letter middle word in "Christ died for our sins" is very important. We must know that we are sinners and that Christ died on the cross, but we must believe in our heart that He died FOR our sins. He had no sin, but He was made to be sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21) that He might die in our place and pay the penalty for our sins.

By Grace Ye are Saved (Eph. 2:5)

Saving grace is the unmerited favor and kindness of God toward sinners by Jesus Christ. Salvation is a free gift because it was purchased in full by the finished work of Christ. In this age of grace, salvation is "no more of works" (Rom. 11:6), "not of works" (Eph. 2:9), and "not by works" (Titus 3:5).

The one condition to receiving the gift of salvation is to believe in your heart (Eph. 1:12-13). You must stop trying to be saved and simply trust Christ to be saved. To trust Christ for salvation is to depend solely upon His death, burial, and resurrection.

Ye are Complete in Him (Col. 2:10)

The very instant we believe on Christ as our Savior; the Holy Spirit baptizes us into the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13) and we are thereby made one with Him. Through this spiritual baptism (NOT water baptism) we are identified with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection (Rom. 6:3-4), and we are seated with Him in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6). His work of salvation for us is complete. Nothing can be added to it. Spiritual growth is the process of learning who we are in Christ and how to live it out in our daily walk. We will be instantly and permanently glorified with Christ when He raptures us to heaven to be with Him (1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Phil. 3:20-21).

Looking for That Blessed Hope (Titus 2:13)

Christ could come at any moment to catch away His Body. Paul did not instruct us to look for the antichrist from the earth, but to look for Christ from heaven! The church which is the Body of Christ will not go through the prophesied tribulation period.

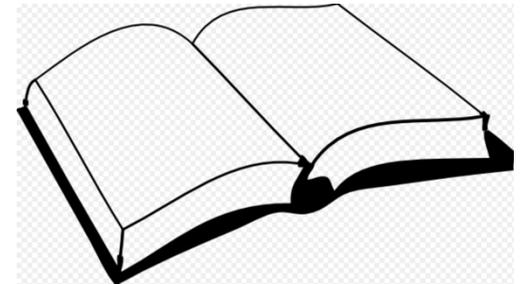
We are the subject of a divine mystery (Eph. 3), not of prophecy concerning Israel. When Christ comes for us we shall see Him, be like Him, and be with Him forever. This is the consummation of our salvation. In God's eyes, it is a done deal (Rom. 8:30), but we are waiting on its fulfillment. In the Bible, hope is not a doubtful thing at all. It is a certain anticipation and expectation of what has been promised. Until death or the rapture, we still have the flesh to deal with. How do we walk in victory over the flesh?

I am Crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20)

We do not have to strive for victory over our flesh. Christ defeated the flesh for us when He died in our place. With the old man being crucified, I am now free to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:1-7). The Christian life is about Christ living His life through us.

These simple but powerful five word statements will change your life forever if you truly believe them!

Five Words



Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

1 Corinthians 14:19

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