

First Corinthians 13:8-13

Paul begins with a contrast regarding DURATION—13:8

- 1) Love's tenacity—⁸ *Love never ends* [pres. act. ind. *ekpipto*]. (cf. 13:13) (i.e. it is eternal)
- 2) Contrasted with love—*But ...* (these three represent all the gifts in 12:8-10)
 - a) 2nd group—*if there are prophecies, they will be terminated* [fut. pass. ind. *katargeo*];
 - b) 3rd group—*if there are languages, they will cease* (of their own accord) [fut. dep. ind. *pauo*];
 - i) cf. Luke 8:24, the wind and ceased of their own accord because they were rebuked by Jesus
 - ii) cf. 14:21-22; what people group was the target audience for these languages?
 - c) 1st group—*if there is knowledge, it will be terminated* [fut. pass. ind. *katargeo*].
- 3) New gifts will be given during the Tribulation and kingdom age (cf. Revelation 11:3-7; Joel 2:28-29)

Paul continues with a contrast of COMPLETION—13:9-13

- 1) Present state of incompleteness—13:9
 - a) ⁹ *Now we know* [*ginosko*] **in part** (emphatic) [*meros*],
 - b) *and we prophesy* [*propheteo*] **in part** (emphatic) [*meros*].
- 2) Anticipated completion—13:10 ¹⁰ *But when the complete* [*teleios*] *comes, the partial* [*meros*] *will be terminated* [fut. pass. ind. *katargeo*].
 - a) What is the Completion?
 - i) the canon of Scripture?, second coming of Christ? greater maturity within the congregations?
 - b) Church history: both Chrysostom (d. 407 AD) and Augustine (d. 430 AD) said the miraculous sign gifts had ceased by their time
- 3) Illustrated from real life that the childish is replaced by adulthood—13:11
 - a) Immaturity—¹¹ *When I was a child,*
 - i) Speech—*I talked* [*laleo*] *as a child,*
 - ii) Thinking and interests—*I thought* [*phroneo*] *as a child,*
 - iii) Logical reasoning—*I reasoned* [*logizomai*] *as a child;*
 - b) Maturity—*but when I became an adult male,*
 - i) *I terminated* [*katargeo*] *childish things.*
- 4) Illustrated from a mirror—13:12
 - a) The illustration (cf. Numbers 12:6-8)
 - i) The present—¹² *For now we see in a mirror enigmatically* [*ainigma*],
 - (1) Corinth was well known in the ancient world for producing some of the finest bronze mirrors available.
 - ii) The future—*but then face to face* (with others).
 - b) The principle of clarity
 - i) **Now** *I know* [*ginosko*] *in part* [*meros*],
 - ii) *but then I will know fully* [*epiginosko*] *just as I also am fully known* [*epiginosko*] (by others).
- 5) Permanence and priority—13:13
 - a) In contrast to the partial, temporary gifts—¹³ *But now remain faith, hope, love, these three;*
 - b) In comparison to faith and hope—*but the greatest of these is love.*