



## “That Which Is Perfect”

### 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

The apostle Paul was the first to \_\_\_\_\_ in the city of Corinth (Acts 18:1-8). Despite the severe persecution by the \_\_\_\_\_, he stayed there more than a year-and-a-half preaching to both Jews and Gentiles. “And many of the Corinthians hearing, believed and were \_\_\_\_\_” (Acts 18:8). Jesus had promised that “He who believes and is baptized will be \_\_\_\_\_” (Mark 16:15-16). Those Corinthians were saved people—they were God’s people, God’s \_\_\_\_\_ in Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:2). Their conversion to the Lord’s way of living was a very radical \_\_\_\_\_ for them (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). It would be somewhat expected that they would have a lot of \_\_\_\_\_. Paul addressed some of those questions in this \_\_\_\_\_. Paul is not simply giving his “\_\_\_\_\_” as a friend, but they were to consider what he wrote would be the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (1 Corinthians 7:10).

Paul didn’t \_\_\_\_\_ those writings into chapters and verses. We have done that for our convenience; to make it \_\_\_\_\_ to find our way around in the Scriptures and to be able to easily and quickly locate and identify certain sentences and paragraphs. Chapters 12 and 13 and 14 are \_\_\_\_\_ subject – “spiritual gifts.” Chapter 13, while it is called “The \_\_\_\_\_ chapter of the Bible,” is within the context of teaching about spiritual gifts in the infant church.

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11** To understand the verse we are studying (1 Corinthians 13:10) it is absolutely essential that we understand that “the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the \_\_\_\_\_ of all” (verse 7). Whatever spiritual gift one Christian received, was not for \_\_\_\_\_ – not to feed his pride or his ego, but for building up of all the other members of the church. The \_\_\_\_\_ the gifts were problematical in the Corinthian church is that some of them were preferred by some people over the other gifts, and the members who received the preferred gifts (the more spectacular ones, like healings, miracles and tongues), were feeling more spiritual, or superior, or preferred over the other Christians who had received those of \_\_\_\_\_ preference. There are \_\_\_\_\_ gifts named and no one Christian was given all the gifts (12:8-10). The gifts of wisdom, knowledge, faith and prophecy have to do with \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s word; and the others for the confirmation of that revelation. In the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter it is made \_\_\_\_\_ that these were intended to be temporary (verses 8-10). The word “perfect” in our English versions comes from the word “telios” and it means “\_\_\_\_\_” or “finished.” Revelation or knowledge or prophecy was then being dispensed in \_\_\_\_\_. It was in the growing or developmental \_\_\_\_\_; some revelation had already been given, some was then being revealed, and there was more yet to be revealed. But when God’s \_\_\_\_\_ was perfectly or completely revealed, wisdom, knowledge, prophecy and those gifts that confirm the truthfulness of God’s word were done away. Paul uses the \_\_\_\_\_ of a child growing up (13:11). The church \_\_\_\_\_ the gifts in the days of infancy or development, when revelation was partial or incomplete or unwritten. But, when God completed His revelation to mankind, and confirmed it with miracles, to know the truth man must \_\_\_\_\_ and believe the Bible.

“When that which is perfect is come” cannot possibly be a reference to \_\_\_\_\_, as many have been taught in order to prove miracles would prevail in the church until the Lord comes. Christ is never referred to in the Scriptures as an “it” or a “that;” He is a \_\_\_\_\_.

The Old Testament book of Exodus tells the story of God feeding Israel for many years by the miracle of manna. Then suddenly the manna stopped because Israel was in a place where the land produced their needs (Joshua 5:10-12). God had not lost His power nor had He quit caring for His people. The manna had served its purpose and was not needed any more.