

1 CORINTHIANS 13

NLET

PAUL STATES THE INDISPENSIBILITY OF LOVE

1 If ever

- with the languages of the people I might speak – even, the languages of the *angelic* Messengers¹! – but I might not have LOVE, I have lastingly become a bronze cymbal sounding or a cymbal clanging;

2 and, if ever

- I might have a gift of prophecy², and
- I might know the Mysteries – all of them! – and all knowledge; and, if ever
- I might have all the Faith – so as to keep on moving a mountain from one place to another! – but, I should not have LOVE, I am NOTHING.

3 And,

- if ever I might hand-feed all the things belonging to me to the poor, and,
- if ever I might hand the body that is mine over so that it shall be burned³ –

but, I do not have LOVE, I receive NO benefit.

PAUL CHARACTERIZES THE LOVE

- 4 The Love keeps on being long-suffering.
- It keeps on being kind.
- The Love does not keep on being jealous.
- The Love does not keep on boasting.
- It does not keep on being puffed up.
- 5 It does not keep on behaving unbecomingly.
- It does not keep on seeking its own *things*.
- It does not keep on being provoked.
- It does not keep on taking into account the bad *thing*.
- 6 It does not keep on rejoicing in reference to the Unrighteousness.
- But, it keeps on rejoicing together with the Truth.
- 7 It keeps on sustaining all things.
- It keeps on believing all things.

¹ 'messengers' – This word is commonly transliterated as 'angels.' It can refer to heavenly messengers, human messengers, or even a demonic messengers.

² 'a gift of prophecy' or, 'a gift of interpreting the will of God'

³ 50.6% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'shall be burned' (a future passive verb) here. On the basis of 1.5% the NU has 'should be burned' (a subjunctive verb).

⁴ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'comes to naught' here instead of 'falls'.

⁵ 92% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'Now,' here instead of 'For,'.

⁶ 94% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of

- It keeps on hoping all things.
- It keeps on being patient under all things.
- 8 The Love never comes to naught⁴.

PAUL NOTES THE TEMPORARY AND PARTIAL NATURE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Now,

- whether *there are gifts of* prophecy, they shall be left idle.
- Whether *there are gifts of* languages, they shall be brought to an end.
- Whether *there is a gift of* knowledge, it shall be left idle.

9 Now,⁵ in part we come to know. And, in part we are prophesying.

10 Now, whenever the Complete *Thing* should come, then⁶ the 'in part' *thing* shall be left idle.

PAUL COMPARES THE PRESENT TIME TO CHILDHOOD

AND THE TIME TO COME TO ADULthood

11 When I was a child, as a child I was speaking⁷, as a child I was thinking⁸, as a child I was reckoning⁹. Now,¹⁰ having lastingly become a man, I have lastingly left the *things* of the child idle.

12 For, just now we are seeing by means of a mirror, in connection with an enigma. Then, *we shall be seeing* face to face.

Just now, I am coming to know in part. Now then, I shall recognize, just as also I have been recognized.

PAUL HAILS 'THE LOVE' AS THE GREATEST

13 Now, at this time faith, hope, love stand fast. THESE are "the Three."

Now, *the* greatest of these? The Love!

transmission (f35), include 'then' here.

⁷ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the word order 'as a child I was speaking' here instead of 'I was speaking as a child'.

⁸ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the word order 'as a child I was thinking' here instead of 'I was thinking as a child'.

⁹ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the word order 'as a child I was reckoning' here instead of 'I was reckoning as a child'.

¹⁰ 98.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include 'Now,' here.