

Things Hard To Understand (#9)

“Speaking in Tongues”

Text: Acts 2:1-8

Introduction:

1. It seems that “trends” are not only found in culture, but also in religion! “Tongue speaking” is one of those trends which seems to rise and fall in modern religious circles.
2. While this is a topic many look to as hard to understand, I believe a simple examination of God’s Word reveals the truth He desires that we know and follow.

Discussion:

I. Determining The Biblical Definition Of Tongues Exposes the Modern Concept As False (Acts 2:1-11)

1. Simply tracing in Acts 2:1-11 what the “tongue” is makes clear it is not the unintelligible babbling of those religious folk today!
2. Mark 16:17 tells of the promise of “new tongues”, Acts 2:1-11 defines what it is and all other passages have nothing said that take away or change that definition.

II. Determining How The Biblical Gift Of Tongues Was Received Exposes The Modern Concept As False (Mark 16:17; Acts 2:4; 10:44-48; Acts 19:6)

1. It was promised along with all other manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit (Mark 16:17; cf 1 Corinthians 13:8-13)
2. It was given by the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4; 10:44-48; cf. Ephesians 4:4-5 with Matthew 28:18-20 (Acts 10:47))
3. It was given by the laying on of an apostle’s hands (Acts 19:6; cf 8:18; 1:21-25)

III. Realizing The Source Of Modern “Tongues” Exposes The Modern Concept As False (And Helps Us To Avoid The Same)

1. We have already seen that the Biblical origin of tongues is not possible for any today.
2. Like those things condemned in the first century due to their being from the doctrines of man (Matthew 15:9), the modern “tongue speaking” movement has it’s origin in the same erroneous standard. (In the “Christian religion” it is a phenomenon begun only in the early 1900's)

Conclusion:

1. The modern phenomenon of “tongue speaking” is nothing like the Biblical manifestation of the gift of tongues. It was received in the first century as a gift of the Spirit – an action which cannot occur in our day if the Bible be true. The modern act is nothing more than emotionalism run amuck.
2. As in all things, man would be better served to follow God’s admonition to search the word for the truth, and follow it (Acts 17:11-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)