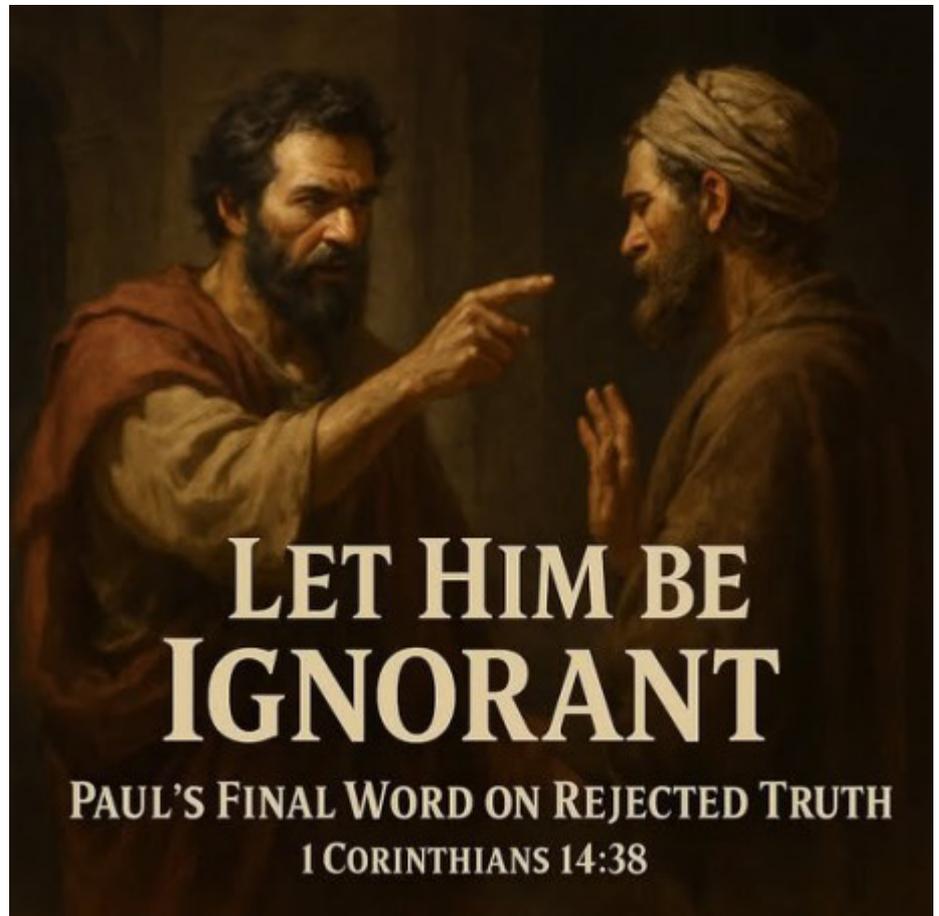


# Fulfilled Prophecies

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Ignorant - LET HIM  
BE IGNORANT:  
PAUL'S FINAL  
WORD ON  
REJECTED TRUTH



By Dan Maines

**LET HIM BE IGNORANT: PAUL'S FINAL WORD ON REJECTED TRUTH** Text: 1 Corinthians 14:38 (KJV) "But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant."

## INTRODUCTION

Today I want to talk about a short verse with **profound implications**. Paul, writing to the Corinthians, is addressing the **proper use of spiritual gifts** in the church. But nestled in the middle of this detailed teaching is a simple statement that

speaks volumes:

**"But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant."** (1 Corinthians 14:38, KJV)

As someone who holds the **fulfilled view**, I see this in its full **first century context**, where the **miraculous (supernatural) spiritual gifts** of the Spirit were **temporary**, given for the **edification of the early church until the coming of the Lord**. Paul is dealing with disorder and pride, especially around tongues and prophecy. And he draws a hard line here:

If someone refuses to acknowledge the authority of apostolic teaching, **Paul does not chase them endlessly**. He says, **let them be ignorant**.

## **UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT**

In **1 Corinthians 14:37 (NASB)**, Paul says:

"If anyone thinks that he is a prophet or spiritual, he is to recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment."

That's the lead-in. Paul is saying that what he's writing is **not a suggestion**, it is **the Lord's command**. Then he follows with verse 38:

"But if anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized."  
(NASB)

The **KJV says**: "Let him be ignorant."

The **NASB says**: "He is not recognized."

**Both convey the same idea**: If someone **rejects apostolic instruction**, we are not to **treat their ignorance as wisdom**.

We do **not validate rebellion or spiritual pride.**

Paul also warns in **Galatians 1:8-9** that:

"If we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed."

That's how seriously Paul took the authority of his teaching.

## **THE PRETERIST FRAMEWORK**

Why is this important in a fulfilled framework?

Because in the first century:

The Spirit was **revealing mysteries**

He was **guiding the church**

He was **preparing the body** for the coming **Day of the Lord**

As Paul says in **1 Corinthians 13:8-10 (NASB)**:

"Love never fails. But if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away with, if there are tongues, they will cease, if there is knowledge, it will be done away with. For we know in part and prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away with."

These gifts were **partial**

They served a **temporary purpose** during the **transitional period**

That period ended with the **fulfillment of the Old Covenant age** in **AD 70**

After that, the **need for such signs ceased**

## **THE SPIRIT REMAINS ACTIVE**

Let me be clear:

The **Holy Spirit** was never just about gifts

He is **still fully active** today

We are now the **mature body of Christ**

The Spirit now works more deeply through:

**Wisdom**

**Conviction**

**Transformation**

**Truth**

As **Galatians 5:25** says:

"If we live by the Spirit, let's follow the Spirit as well."

The specific **miraculous gifts** served their purpose in that **first-century generation**, but the **presence and power of the Holy Spirit** continue:

He is the **seal of our salvation**

He **leads us into truth**

He **conforms us to the image of Christ**

## LET THEM BE IGNORANT

So what do we do with those who reject this truth?

Those who insist that **tongues continue**

Those who claim **prophecy is still active**

Those who cling to **futurism**, despite the **clear testimony of scripture and history**

**Paul gives us permission** right here:

**"If any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant."** (KJV)

This is **not harsh**, it is **clarity**. It is **recognizing that not everyone will accept the truth**.

Paul does **not say argue endlessly**. He says, if they reject the authority of the Word, **let them go**.

As Jesus said in **Matthew 15:14 (NASB)**:

"Leave them alone, they are blind guides of blind people. And if a blind person guides a blind person, both will fall into a pit."

## APPLICATION

In this age, we proclaim the **fulfilled gospel** with **boldness**.

But we do **not waste energy** on those who **will not see**. Paul told Titus:

**Titus 3:10-11 (NASB)** "Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning, knowing that such a person has deviated from what is right and is sinning, being self-condemned."

We are **not the final judges**

But we are called to **exercise spiritual discernment**

And that includes knowing when someone is **choosing ignorance**

## **CONCLUSION**

**1 Corinthians 14:38** reminds us that **not all ignorance is innocent**. Some is **willful**.

Paul faced it

The early church faced it

And **we do too**

But rather than be discouraged, we are to:

**Stay focused**

**Continue teaching**

And **let those who choose ignorance walk their path**

**"But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant."**

That is not defeat. It is Paul's way of saying:

**Stay the course. Truth stands, whether men accept it or not.**

**Amen.**

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