

1 Corinthians 14:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:

Analysis

But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned—Paul contrasts a prophecy-dominated service with the tongues-dominated one (v. 23). **He is convinced of all, he is judged of all**—the unbeliever is elegchetai hypo pantōn, anakrinetai hypo pantōn (ἐλέγχεται ὑπὸ πάντων, ἀνακρίνεται ὑπὸ πάντων, "convicted by all, examined by all").

Elegchō (ἐλέγχω) means to convict, expose, bring to light—the Spirit's work through prophecy (John 16:8). Anakrinō (ἀνακρίνω) means to examine, scrutinize, judge. Intelligible, Spirit-prompted preaching penetrates the unbeliever's conscience, exposing sin and revealing truth. This is true evangelistic power—not ecstatic display, but convicting proclamation.

Historical Context

Early Christian worship was public and evangelistic; unbelievers attended regularly (see v. 16, 23-25). Paul insists worship should convict outsiders through intelligible proclamation, not confuse them through incomprehensible speech.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does prophecy 'convince' and 'judge' an unbeliever?
2. What's the relationship between intelligibility and conviction by the Spirit?
3. Should modern worship services be designed with unbelievers in mind? How?

Interlinear Text

ἐὰν	δέ	πάντων	προφητεύωσιν	εἰσέλθῃ	δέ	τις
if	But	all	prophecy	there come in	But	one
G1437	G1161	G3956	G4395	G1525	G1161	G5100
ἄπιστος	ἢ	ιδιώτης	ἐλέγχεται	ὑπὸ	πάντων	
that believeth not	or	one unlearned	he is convinced	of	all	
G571	G2228	G2399	G1651	G5259	G3956	
ἀνακρίνεται	ὑπὸ	πάντων				
he is judged	of	all				
G350	G5259	G3956				

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