

9 –GIFTS TO THE CHURCH (EPHESIANS 4:7-16)

I. The Giving Of The Gifts (Ephesians 4:7-11)

A. Individual Gifts (Ephesians 4:7)

- In our unity as a church, grace was given to believers individually according to Christ's gift.
- The word "grace" is used by Paul to reflect gifts or abilities given to believers by Christ.

SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 8:7

- Paul is telling his readers that spiritual gifts were given to believers by Christ.

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

B. The Victor's Right (Ephesians 4:8-10)

- As a basis for these gifts, Paul shares a variation of Psalm 68:18.
- Psalm 68 stresses that a military victor has the right to give gifts to those who are his allies.
- Paul is telling his readers that the victor, Jesus, gave gifts to those who are aligned with him.
- In explaining that he ascended, he points out that Jesus first descended.
- The descending to the lower parts of the earth refers to his coming to world as a human.

SCRIPTURE Philippians 2:6-10

- Paul states that he then ascended far above all the heavens as supreme over creation.
- The phrase "might fill all things" reflects his authority over the world.

C. Specific Gifts Given (Ephesians 4:11)

- Paul points out that Jesus personally gave the church certain gifted individuals.
- These gifted individuals are listed as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

II. The Purpose For The Gifts (Ephesians 4:12-16)

A. Intentional Gifting (Ephesians 4:12-13)

- Jesus gifted the church with these individuals to equip believers for service.
- Jesus' gifting is also for the purpose of edifying the body, the church.

A Sure Foundation: The Letter To The Ephesians

- The equipping and edifying are to occur until we come to unity of faith.
- The equipping and edifying are to occur until we come to knowledge of the Son of God.
- This equipping and edifying are to occur until we come to spiritual maturity.

B. The Necessary Outcome (Ephesians 4:14-16)

- Paul states that this is necessary so that we will no longer be spiritually immature as children.
- He describes children as being unstable and easily deceived by false teachers.
- Rather, we will “grow up” in Christ by speaking the truth in love.
- Christ is the head of the church and its source for life resulting in growth.