

Sermon Outline

NOBC

#23 Ephesians 4:7-16 (page 865)

1/17/2010

The Uniqueness of The Believers in The Body

Through Paul the Holy Spirit presented the unity of the body, now He presents the uniqueness and diversity of the believers who constitute the body.

In the passage before us the Holy Spirit is presenting the necessary foundation for the functioning of the church, His spiritual body. First, He tells us that He distributes grace gifts to each member of His body to enable each person to be able to do His will. Second, He tells us that this distribution is based upon Christ's victory over Satan and sin. Third, He tells us that He chooses and assigns individuals to places of specific service for the enabling of His church.

I. THE INTRODUCTION: THE GRACE GIFTS vs. 7 Christ The Victor Distributes His Grace Gifts to Enable His Own

A. He Distributes His Grace Gifts To Each Believer

1 Corinthians 12:11-14

B. He Determines The Measure and The Nature of His Grace Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

II. THE CONQUERING MESSIAH: THE VICTOR'S SPOILS vv. 8-10 The Holy Spirit seems to be paraphrasing the victorious sixty-eighth Psalm, a Psalm of victory, as He actually rephrases some of the words, particularly those of Ps. 68:18. Since the Holy Spirit is the author of both the Psalm and the passage in Ephesians, He is free to change some of the wording to accomplish His purpose if He so desires.

A. His Ascension *"When He ascended up on high ..."*

1. His ascension is His triumphant return to heaven.

2. He *"led captivity captive"* He had conquered sin, Satan, and death and returned to heaven to display His spoils Isaiah 49:8-13; Psalm 68:18; Colossians 2:14-15; Hebrews 2:14-15

B. His Descent *"He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth"* His descent was from the glory of heaven to earth as a servant, His incarnation, His humiliation, that He might die on the cross to pay men's debt of sin, be buried in a grave and be resurrected from the grave, thus conquering the enemy.

III. THE RESULT OF HIS VICTORY: *"THAT HE MIGHT FILL ALL THINGS"* (in the church) BY GIVING GIFTS TO HIS BODY vv.10b-11

His *"gifts"* are His servants, specific men, who fulfill specific assignments to serve the needs of His body, the church. These officers/servants of the church are selected by divine appointment and serve under His authority to do His will. 1 Cor. 12:28

A. Foundational Servants: These were only for the first century. Eph. 2:20

1. Apostles Acts 1:15-22; 1 Cor. 9:1-2; 2 Cor. 12:11-12

a. These men were selected and appointed by the Lord.

b. These men had to have seen Jesus in person and after He was resurrected to bear witness to the resurrection 2. Prophets: These men received supernatural revelations from the Lord so that they could proclaim and write what we have in the New Testament.

B. Continuing, Ministering, Equipping Servants

1. Evangelists: We would call these missionaries because these men took the Gospel to people who had not heard it and still do

2. Pastor / Teachers: These men open up the written Word of God and explain it to the believers