

## Sermon Outline

NOBC

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

1/31/2010

### The Purpose of The Servants Jesus Gave To The Church

Christ gave some servants to the church as His gifts to it. In these verses our Lord tells us the purpose of those servants.

- I. **THE INTRODUCTION: THE GRACE-GIFTS vs. 7**
- II. **THE CONQUERING MESSIAH: THE VICTOR'S SPOILS vv. 8-10**
- 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
    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**
- IV. **THE PURPOSE OF THE SERVANTS GIVEN TO THE CHURCH vv. 12-16**
  - A. **Helping Christians Mature and Lead Them From Sin to Obedience vs. 12**
    1. **For the Perfecting/Equipping of The Saints: *so they can serve their Lord***
    2. **For the Work of The Ministry: *so they can fulfill their purpose***
    3. **For the Edifying of The Body of Christ: *so the body of Christ will be strong***
  - B. **To Attain Unto The Unity of The Faith vs. 13**
    1. **Acquire the full "knowledge of God"**
    2. **So each saint, and the whole body of saints, can become a mature saint 3. Measured by the very person of Jesus Christ**
  - C. **To Protect The Saints From The Deceptions of Satan vs. 14 -15**
    1. **Negatively:**
      - a. **Those who allow themselves to be deceived are acting like little children.**
      - b. **They are tossed about like a wave in the sea because they succumb to**
      - c. **every strange doctrine Satan puts forward and are easily deceived by Satan**
    2. **Positively: The leaders and the people are to "speak the truth in love to each other." It has been said that:**

*Truth without love is brutality*  
*Love without truth is hypocrisy*
  - D. **The Result Is To Be A Healthy, Mature Body That Works Together Effectively Increasing Both The Body and Edifying The Individual Saints In The Body**