

Ephesians Class notes March 4, 2012

Chapter 4:7-16

Key verses 11, 12, 13

Vs. 7-10

In verse 7 Paul tells us Jesus has given each of us grace in the amount he has decided we needed. He has a purpose for each member of his body. We are all on the same team. Romans 12:1-5

In verse 8 we are told when Jesus ascended to heaven he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men. Paul uses a military metaphor to describe Jesus' action. Paul portrays Jesus as a conquering hero returning home the victor over his foes.

Verses 9 and 10 simply confirm that Jesus came from heaven to earth. He completed the work his father gave him to do and returned to heaven in order to be in control of the whole universe. The last thing the Father ask Jesus to do was suffer the cross. When Jesus went to the cross, he defeated Satan. At that point, Satan knew he could not win. Satan's powers are limited. He cannot force us to do anything , he can only tempt us. However, Satan will use our weaknesses to tempt us.

Vs. 11-13

In verses 11-13 Paul details the gifts Christ gave the Church when he ascended. Paul also tells us the purpose of these gifts.

Apostles---This word in its simplest form means send or one who is sent. It is my opinion Paul is talking about the twelve men Jesus chose to establish his Church. These twelve plus Paul were given special powers by Jesus in order to confirm the Gospel. In the broader sense of the word it could mean people that are sent by the Church today to teach lost souls.

Prophets---The word prophet in its simplest form means spokesperson. However, it is most often associated with a person whom God has given the power to see the future. It is my opinion that Paul uses this word to describe this type of prophet. In the broader sense of the word, it could mean any member of the body whom has studied God's word and has knowledge of God's will. This person would be able to reveal the information they have learned from God's word to someone else.

Evangelist---Is a word associated with any member of the body of Christ who works full time teaching others God's will as it is revealed in his word. These people help spread the good news about Jesus and his Church. It is my opinion Paul is describing this type of evangelist in chapter 11. However, all of us can be an evangelist on a part time basis. All we need to do is to be willing to share the good news with the people we know. Which one do you think is more important to mankind: knowing the cure for cancer so mankind can have more time on the earth or having the knowledge of God's will so mankind can have eternal life.

Pastors/Teachers---These two words have the same meaning in the Greek. Most Bible scholars agree that pastors/teachers spoken of by Paul in chapter 11 means elders or shepherds. In the early Church most of the teaching was done by either the apostles, evangelists or elders. In James 3 he refers to himself as a teacher. We know that he was an elder in the Jerusalem church.

Vs. 12-13

The reason Jesus gave these gifts to his church was to prepare us for works of service. So the body of Christ could be built up by doing this all of us can reach unity in the faith and the knowledge of God's son. When we do this we will become mature obtaining to the whole measure of Christ.

II Timothy 2:15-19 Hebrews 4:12-13

Vs. 14-16

When the whole body of Christ has accomplished what Jesus has ask us to do in verse 13, we will be able to withstand all the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Mk. 7:5-9 I Tim. 4:1-5 II Tim. 4:1-5