

CHRIST'S GIFTS

Ephesians 4:7-11

Christ gifts Christians for work in His church.

*Yet the focus of the text is as much about
the giver as it is about the gifts.*

I. THE REALITY OF CHRIST'S GIFTS (7)

A. THE DETAILS

1. Individuals are gifted
2. Use of gifts is expected

B. THE DESIGN

- Christ's gifts are His favors designed for the functioning of His church.

C. THE DETERMINATION

- Christ decides what you get and how much of it you get.

II. THE AUTHORITY FOR CHRIST'S GIVING (8-10)

A. ASCENSION

- "He ascended on high" (8a)

 1. Power over the grave (9)
 2. Power over gravity (10)

B. VICTORY

- "He led captive a host of captives" (8b)

 1. Declaring His victory
 - a. Satan's Demise
 - 1) In Heaven: Satan was demoted - Is. 12:12-15
 - 2) On Earth: Satan was defeated
 - a) By Christ's sinlessness - Heb. 4:15
 - b) By Christ's sacrifice - John 12:31-33
 - 3) In Hades: Satan is defied - I Peter 3:18-20
 - b. Death's conquest
 - 1) Death had no affect on Christ - Acts 2:22-24, 36
 - 2) Christ's soul went to Hades but did not stay there
 - 3) Christ's flesh was unaffected by death

Over please >

2. Delivering His saints
 - a. He brings the captive saints from their captivity in Sheol - Luke 16:22-23
 - b. The Lord went to Paradise (Lk. 23:43) which is now located about the heavens - cf. II Cor. 12:2-4
 - c. Jesus returned from Hades with the keys to death and Hades - Rev. 1:18

C. ABILITY

- He gave gifts to men (8c)
1. Resources
 - Sharing the spoils of war as a conquering General
 2. Generosity
 - Christ was not greedy or unwilling to share
 3. Wisdom
 - Providing leadership for His church (11)

III. THE LEADERSHIP CHRIST GAVE (11)

A. MINISTERS

1. Christ gave people to lead His church
2. Christ gave men!
 - Not manuals, machines or menus

B. MINISTRIES

1. Foundational Leadership (Temporary)
 - a. Apostles: Initial authority for church life and doctrine
 - b. Prophets: Report and record God's Word
2. Functional Leadership (Permanent)
 - a. Evangelists: Traveling missionaries
 - b. Pastor / Teachers: Shepherding edifiers

CONCLUSION:

- By the awesome authority of Jesus Christ (8-10)**
- He gives every Christian gifts (7)**
- And provides His church with leadership (11)**