

Ephesians Study 7

Epistle to the Ephesians

STUDY 7

Ephesians 4:7-16

Unity in Diversity

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Ephesians 4:7,11 THE "PRESENTS"

Related Topics Onsite:

- Spiritual Gifts Chart
- Ephesians 4:7-12 by Wayne Barber

How is Ephesians divided?

Chapters 1-3 = Doctrine

Chapters 4-6 = Duty

How is Ephesians 4:1-16 divided?

Ephesians 4:1-6 = Preserve the Unity in Truth

Ephesians 4:7-16 = Unity in Diversity

Ephesians 4:7 What does each saint get?

Grace according to measure of CHRIST'S GIFT

John 7:37-39 What does this teach about Christ's gift?

The Gift is the Holy Spirit

1Cor12:13 What does the Spirit do?

The Spirit Baptizes each believer into the Body of Christ

Baptize = identify with, bring into union

1Cor 12:4-11

1Cor 12:4-6 What does this teach about gifts?

Verse 4 Variety gifts-Spirit

Verse 5 Ministries - Lord

(Eg, Peter had a ministry to Gentiles, Paul to Jews)

Verse 6 Effects - God

(Eg, same message does not always produce same effect. It's in God's hands.)

Note involvement of **trinity** in the spiritual gifts and utilization of the gifts.

1Cor 12:7 Who receives a gift?

Each one given a manifestation (others can see it - helps us discern our gift)

Why given?

For the common good - profitable, useful

The verb "sumphero" is literally "to bring together" and came to mean that which confers a benefit, is profitable, is advantageous or is useful to the body of Christ.

1Cor 12:8-10 What is the pattern repeated in these verses regarding gifts?

Gifts differ but there is one Spirit (Unity)

1Cor 12:8-11 What is the emphasis again?

One Spirit

He distributes as He wills

Not something to be sought

Romans 12:3-8

Context: Dedication or consecration to God in [Romans 12:1](#), [12:2](#)

Romans 12:3 What is Paul's instruction?

Do not think more highly than ought

God given each a measure of faith

Romans 12:4; 12:5 What does Paul reiterate about the Body?

Many members but one body (unity in diversity)

All members do not have same function - diversity but not uniformity

Individually members of one another

Romans 12:6 What is reiterated about the gifts?

Gifts differ according to grace given

Romans 12:6-8 What pattern do you see in the giving of gifts?

Stay in the sphere of your gift - if serving then serve (don't teach)

1Peter 4:10-11

1 Peter 4:10: Who receives a gift?

Each one

1 Peter 4:10 What is purpose?

Serve one another

We are not meant to be the terminals of God's gifts to us (like the Dead Sea that has no outlet); His grace reaches us but should not end with us. We are intended to be channels through whom the blessing can flow to others.

1 Peter 4:10 How are believers to handle the gifts they receive?

As good stewards

A steward is literally "one who governs a household." It speaks of the responsibility of the proper use and disposition of something entrusted to one's care. Stewards had no wealth of their own, but distributed the Master's

wealth according to the Master's will and direction. A steward is responsible for another's resources. Similarly, a Christian does not own his gifts, but God does & God has given him gifts for the proper functioning of His body, the church.

1 Peter 4:11 What are the general categories of gifts?

Speaking and serving

1 Peter 4:11 What are we to speak?

Utterances of God = Word of God

1 Peter 4:11 How are we to serve?

Strength which God supplies

1 Peter 4:11 What is the ultimate purpose of the gifts?

To glorify God

In summary how would you define "spiritual gifts"?

Spiritual gifts are not...

Supernatural abilities

Sovereignly given to

Strengthen

Saints who

Serve one another as

Stewards of grace

Spiritual gifts are **not**...

Salvation, Character, Talents, Elders, Deacons, Skills

Ephesians 4:11

Ephesians 4:11 What does Paul teach about spiritual gifts?

God gives the body gifted Men

Apostles - sent from another with authority

See other passages...

Ephesians 1:1 = Paul (had seen the Lord, no more apostles in this sense after the first century)

Ephesians 2:20 - foundation (Jesus = foundation 1Cor 3:11)

Ephesians 3:5 - recipients of revelation

Prophets - fore and forth tell (In NT no fore telling prophets, Biblical revelation is complete)

Evangelists - proclaim gospel, increase in number of saints

Pastor/Teachers - feed the Word, increase in quality of saints

Pastor = Shepherd

A shepherd takes care of sheep = feeds, leads, protects sheep (grazes, guides, guards)

Ephesians 4:8-10 THE "PARENTHESIS"

Ephesians 4:8 What is he concluding or explaining?

Explains why Christ had right to give gifts = He was the Victor.

Gifts are free but it cost something to give them to us to this parenthesis should be a powerful motivator for us to all use our spiritual gifts. We need to remember what if cost our Lord to make them available to us. To not use them as one pastor phrased it is to spite God's gift to us. We will be held accountable for how we used our gifts.

How does he illustrate from OT?

Quotes Ps 68:18

Note there is some variation - specifically the OT says "received gifts" and NT says "He gives gifts"). The point is you have to receive something to have something to give. Christ received the gift from His Father and gave it to us. For example...

Acts 2:33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having **received** from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has **poured forth** this which you both see and hear. (referring to the promised gift of the Spirit - compare John 7:37-39, John 16:7, Luke 24:49, and even the OT promise included in the promise of the New Covenant in Ezekiel 26:27).

What was Ps 68 about?

Song of God's victory. Many think historically it was written by King David's at the time he captured Jerusalem but clearly Paul shows that it had a greater prophetic (messianic) fulfillment.

What does this Messianic Psalm teach?

Christ ascended - after His victory on Cross

He led captives a host of captives

He gave gifts to men (The Holy Spirit Who then distributes the gifts as He wills).

Note: Regarding "Let captive a host of captives" Some think that Hades (the place of the dead which corresponds to the OT word Sheol) was divided into 2 compartments (as suggested by the passage in Lu 16:19-32. This compartmentalization had been taught by the pagan Greeks, in the apocryphal book of Enoch and by Jewish tradition). There is no consensus among conservative evangelical scholars as to whether Hades had 2 compartments. However, this teaching was widely held by the early church fathers who also taught that after His death Christ descended to Hades and that He set free the OT believers from the "cool" side of Hades (cf Luke 16:19-32). This teaching became incorporated into the Apostle's Creed but again to be fair and balanced, we must realize that there is no absolute consensus on these issues. This is not an issue that determines our salvation so we have to remember Paul's exhortation to be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. We can agree to disagree amicably and we can look forward to the glorious day when faith becomes sight and we no longer look through a mirror dimly! There is an interesting passage from Psalms one of the sons of Korah writing that...

Psalms 49:15 But God will redeem (release upon payment of ransom price) my soul from the power (hand) of **Sheol** (Lxx = **Hades**); For He will receive me. Selah. (Comment: One might use a passage like this to support that when Christ paid the ransom on the Cross, it was then that the souls of the righteous were released from the power of Sheol/Hades. Alternatively one could still say that when the OT saint died, he got "credit" for the ransom payment and was released from Sheol's power so that he did not even have to go there. So it still does not resolve the issue of whether OT saints went to Sheol when they died or went to be with God immediately.) Compare the interesting passages below...

Psalms 86:13 For Thy lovingkindness toward me is great, and Thou hast delivered (Lxx translates with rhuomai = deliver out of great danger) my soul from the depths of Sheol.

(Brenton's translation of the Septuagint - LXX) **Psalms 94:17** If the Lord had not helped me, my soul had almost sojourned in **Hades**.

In view of the fact that **Hades** is used in the Greek Septuagint to translate the Hebrew word **Sheol** in the OT, if you want more insight consider studying all of the OT passages that utilize Hades for Sheol.

Ephesians 4:9; 4:10 How does Paul explain He ascended?

First He descended

To lower parts of earth

What are the 2 (there are more than 2) most common interpretations of "to the lower parts of earth"?

1) Lower, earthly region = to the earth = incarnation

Note the NIV rendering (remember the NIV is in part a *paraphrase* so the way it is rendered will be reflective the translator's favorite interpretation - just another reason to consider using a more literal version like NASB, ESV, NKJV, KJV!) Here is the NIV...

Eph 4:9 (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the **lower, earthly regions**?)

Notice how the translators have added a **comma** (not in the original Greek). **By adding the comma how does it affect your interpretation?** Clearly it favors a descent from heaven to earth in terms of incarnation and doesn't leave much room for interpreting it as #2. I'm not saying the NIV is wrong, but I am saying that it lends a definite bias to the passage and you as a good Bereans need to be aware of that fact ("caveat emptor"!) Another paraphrase (which I think is overall one of the better paraphrases available - but only as an adjunct to a more literal rendition) is the New Living Translation which overtly interprets the passage for the reader. Here is the NLT rendering...

Eph 4:9 "Notice that it says "he ascended." This means that Christ **first came down to the lowly world in which we live.**" (NLT)

2) Below the earth = To Hades (as discussed above)

1 Peter 3:19 What did Jesus do in context of His crucifixion?

Jesus in spirit made proclamation to spirits in prison - suggests Christ descended to Hades. But does it say "Hades"? No, it doesn't so this passage is (voluminously) debated as to what Peter meant. Remember every passage has only one legitimate interpretation (many applications) even if we don't all agree. Those who advocate that Christ descended to Hades after His death and burial, utilize this passage to support their interpretation. Again this is one of those areas that we seek to be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit!

Acts 2:27,31: What does Peter teach regarding Hades in his first sermon?

God will not abandon (leave) Jesus soul to Hades. Remember that Hades means (NIV translates it as **grave**)

Here are the verses compared in a more literal translation (NAS) and a paraphrase (so called dynamic paraphrase, the NIV)...

NASB...

Acts 2:27 BECAUSE THOU WILT NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO **HADES**, NOR ALLOW THY HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.

Acts 2:31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO **HADES**, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY.

NIV...

Acts 2:27 because you will not abandon me to the **grave**, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

Acts 2:31 Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the **grave**, nor did his body see decay.

What difference do you observe between the two translations?

The NAS transliterates the Greek word, while the NIV offers its interpretation as the "**grave**" here implying simply the place the dead are laid to rest (Christ's tomb in this case). While the NIV may be correct, the transliteration as "Hades" leaves open the option of a place separate and distinct from the grave. As discussed below Hades seems to have three primary meanings in Scripture - the unseen world of the dead, as a metonym for death or as the place in the earth the dead are laid to rest, specifically the grave. Sometimes the context of the passage allows a clear distinction in the intended meaning, but other times the passage is not quite so clear.

Excursus

Definition of Hades

Hades is not an easy word to define and a brief study of conservative commentaries and lexicons will reveal that there are several areas in which there is no clear consensus. As the best resources for arriving at a definition of Hades are the Scriptures themselves, the diligent study is advised to compare the "definition" (probably "description" would be a better term) with the 117 uses in the Scripture (see below for list of verses). With that caveat below is a brief summary of Hades.

Hades (86) (**hades**) is the transliteration of the Greek word **Hades** (from **a** = negative + **eido** = to see) literally means "not seen" or "unseen". As noted the understanding of Hades is somewhat confusing, as it changes meaning somewhat from as one moves from the uses in the Old Testament into the uses in the New Testament.

That said, in the OT **Hades** was used most often to describe the region of ALL departed souls. Everyone who die, whether righteous or unrighteous, is described as departing to **Hades**. But as we move into the NT, we see the progressive revelation of the term, so that **Hades** gains a more restricted sense and refers not to the place of ALL who die (believers and unbelievers as in the OT) but only to the abode of unbelievers. In other words, in the NT **Hades** comes to be synonymous with what we refer to as Hell. But to confuse the picture a little, you must realize that even in this sense of meaning "Hell" **Hades** is only a "temporary holding tank" so to speak, because as shown in Rev 20:14 (see below) **Hades** ceases to exist for it is thrown into the Lake of fire. Don't be confused. Hell is permanent and in Scripture is clearly described as such. The unrighteous dead will be resurrected in their bodies (The "Second Resurrection" - see [Births, Deaths, and Resurrections](#)) at the Great White Throne judgment in Revelation 20:11-15-[note](#) and after being judged for their deeds in the body (to determine the degree of punishment in Hell), they are thrown into the Lake of fire which is synonymous with **Gehenna**. And as discussed below, **Hades** is also thrown into the Lake of fire (thus the reason it is referred to as temporary) and is never again described in Scripture.

Other thoughts on Hades - In Homer **hades** is spelled **Haidēs** and means obscure, dark, invisible (Homer Iliad 23.244 ["house of Hades"]). **Hades** is used in the Septuagint where it translates the Hebrew words for **Sheol** and for **death**, once for silence (Ps 94:17, 115:17). **Hades** was the name of Greek god of underworld and then the term for the underworld itself. **Hades** is pictured as a prison for which Jesus holds the keys (Rev 1:18- [see note](#)).

Friberg's simple summary of Hades (literally unseen place)

1. the place of the dead underworld (Acts 2.27, 32);
2. usually in the NT as the temporary underworld prison where the souls of the ungodly await the judgment (Matt. 11:23; 16:18; Lk. 10:15; Lk. 16:23);
3. personified as following along after Death (Rev 6.8, 20:13,14)

The reader is strongly advised to do his or her own study of the word **Hades** as it is used in Scripture and let that study guide the use of the definition in the various lexicons. For example, **Vines** is a respected conservative lexicon widely used by laymen to aid Greek word study and it has the following entry which I have added a few notes to to explain the lack of consensus among the lexicons and dictionaries on the meaning of **hades**...

Hades, the region of departed spirits of the lost (but including the blessed dead in periods preceding the Ascension of Christ) (**Ed note**: Not all conservative commentators would agree with that statement)... It corresponds to "Sheol" in the OT. In the AV of the OT and NT, it has been unhappily rendered "Hell," e.g., Ps 16:10; or "the grave," e.g., Ge 37:35; or "the pit," Nu 16:30, 33; in the N.T. the Revisers have always used the rendering "Hades;" in the OT they have not been uniform in the translation, e.g., in Isa. 14:15, "hell" (marg., "Sheol"); usually they have "Sheol" in the text and "the grave" in the margin. It never denotes the grave (**Ed note**: many would disagree with this statement, e.g., the NIV translates it as "grave" in Acts 2:27, 31 and respected commentators like John MacArthur state that in these verses it is "*the NT equivalent of the OT grave or Sheol... here it refers to the general place of the dead*" [[Ref](#)]), nor is it the permanent region of the lost; in point of time it is, for such, intermediate between decease and the doom of **Gehenna**. ([Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words. 1996. Nelson](#))

Hades - 111x in 107 verses in the Septuagint - LXX - Note that a majority (about 61) of these uses of **Hades** are used to translate the Hebrew word **Sheol** ([7585](#)), and some uses translate other Hebrew words such as **death**. One of the common OT meanings of **Sheol** was in reference to the place of the departed dead.

Ge 37:35; 42:38; 44:29, 31; Num. 16:30, 33; Deut. 32:22; 1 Sam. 2:6; 1 Ki. 2:6, 9, 35; Est. 3:13; Job 7:9; 11:8; 14:13; 17:13, 16; 21:13; 26:6; 33:22; 38:17; Ps. 6:5; 9:17; 16:10; 18:5; 30:3; 31:17; 49:14-15; 55:15; 86:13; 88:3; 89:48; 94:17; 115:17; 116:3; 139:8; 141:7; Pr 1:12; 2:18; 5:5; 7:27; 9:18; 14:12; 15:11, 24; 16:25; 27:20; 30:16; Eccl. 9:10; Cant. 8:6; Isa. 5:14; 14:9, 11, 15, 19; 28:15, 18; 38:10, 18; 57:9; Ezek. 31:15-16; 32:27; Hos. 13:14; Amos 9:2; Jon. 2:2; Hab. 2:5

Hades in the NT = 10x in 10v - Every use of Hades in the Gospels is by Jesus. All 10 NT uses of Hades refer to the abode of the damned with the **EXCEPTION** of the uses in Acts 2:27 and Acts 2:31 which are quotes from the OT. These two uses in Acts thus use **Hades** in the same sense as it was most commonly used in the OT. In other words in Acts 2:27, 31 **Hades** refers to the abode of the departed dead, not the abode of the damned. In summary, all the uses of **Hades** by Jesus and John in context refer specifically to the abode of the damned.

Mt 11:23 "And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. (**Comment:** The inhabitants would go down to hades, the place of the wicked dead.)

Mt 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.

Luke 10:15-note "And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will be brought down to Hades!

Luke 16:23-note "And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Comment: Many interpret this passage as supporting the teaching that there are 2 compartments to Hades/Sheol. This may have been the arrangement before the time of the Cross, but note that if that is so in this verse we read "in Hades" contrasted with "far away". The question is this - is "far away" another side of Hades? It could mean that, but one wonders why the Spirit did not inspire Luke to record something like "far away"... on the other side of Hades? In other words, the location of "far away" is not unequivocally stated. And this is one reason many writers are not dogmatic about the compartmentalization of Hades. See [note above](#) for interesting OT uses of Hades for Sheol - the question is do these passages suggest that there were 2 compartments to Sheol/Hades? After considerable study on this subject, I cannot offer a dogmatic statement, which can be supported from Scripture.

Acts 2:27 BECAUSE THOU WILT NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW THY HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.

Acts 2:31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY.

Comment: Although Vines stated categorically that Hades never means grave [see above] the context of this verse stating "nor did His (Messiah's) flesh suffer decay" indicates that here **hades** represents the place of burial, the grave. The respected Bible Knowledge Commentary adds "The word translated **grave** in verses 27 and 31 is **hades**, which means either the grave (as here in Acts) or the underworld of departed spirits.[\[Ref\]](#)

Rev 1:18-[note](#) and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

Rev 6:8-[note](#) And I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. And authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Rev 20:13-[note](#) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and **Hades** gave up the dead (THIS REFERS TO ALL THE UNRIGHTEOUS DEAD OF ALL THE AGES -- THEY HAVE BEEN HELD IN HADES FOR THE DAY OF THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT) which were in them;

and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 And death and **Hades** were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

Comment: **Hades** is the intermediate state between death and the ultimate hell, **Gehenna** = **second death** = **lake of fire** = **hell**. Note unfortunately KJV often translates Hades as Hell which confuses the issue because the final hell is **Gehenna** not **Hades**.

Tony Garland - Death (representing the bodies of the dead which had lain in the earth and sea) and **Hades** (the place of torment for soul and spirit of the unrighteous dead between death and the judgment) will be destroyed. Their physical reality vanishes in the fleeing of the earth and heaven—the destruction of the old order (cf Rev 20:11): Death and Hades, here viewed as if they were personal beings, share the same fate. They, of course, cease to be. There is nothing more of temporal death or of the place of departed spirits after this. They are not personal beings, hence their casting into “the lake of fire” is the end of them; but, conceived of as persons, they are consigned to exactly the same eternal punishment with the other wicked.

MacArthur on Hades and Gehenna - **Hades** is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew word sheol. Both words describe the realm of the dead. Sheol, used sixty-seven times in the Old Testament, describes the realm of the dead in general. **Hades** is used ten times in the New Testament, always in reference to the place of punishment (cf. Luke 16:23) where the unrighteous dead are kept pending their sentencing to hell. In this incredible scene (Great White Throne), **Hades** is emptied of its captive (unrighteous) spirits, who are reunited with resurrection bodies before the bar of God’s justice. Unbelievers, fitted with resurrection bodies suited for hell, will then be ready for their sentencing to the lake of fire where their punishment, unlike that in **Hades**, will last forever....The clearest and most vivid of the New Testament terms used to describe the final hell, the lake of fire, is gehenna (**Gehenna**). **Gehenna** is the New Testament word for the valley of Ben-Hinnom (also called Topheth; 2 Kings 23:10; Isa. 30:33; Jer. 7:31–32; 19:6), located southwest of Jerusalem. In Old Testament times, idolatrous Israelites burned their children in the fire there as sacrifices to false gods (Jer. 19:2–6). In Jesus’ day, it was the site of Jerusalem’s garbage dump. The fires kept constantly burning there gave off foul-smelling smoke, and the dump was infested with maggots. Sometimes the bodies of criminals were dumped there. The valley of Ben-Hinnom was thus an apt picture of eternal hell, one used repeatedly by Jesus (Matt. 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 12:5). Hell will be God’s eternal cosmic dump; its inmates will be burning as garbage forever. (MacArthur NT Commentary - Revelation)

Related Resources:

- [What is the difference between Sheol, Hades, Hell, the lake of fire, Paradise, and Abraham’s bosom?](#)
- [Did Jesus go to hell between His death and resurrection?](#)
- [What are the gates of hell?](#)
- [Where did Old Testament believers/saints go when they died?](#)
- [Did God create hell?](#)
- [Where was Jesus for the three days between His death and resurrection?](#)
- [What is Tartarus?](#)
- [What does the Bible say about soul sleep?](#)
- [What is Abraham’s bosom?](#)
- [What are the keys of death \(Revelation 1:18\)?](#)

Mt 16:18: What is the relation of Hades to the body of Christ, the church?

- Gate of hades will not prevail - the meaning debated.
- Death will not prevent the work of the church, the living organism representing the body of Christ, composed of all believers since the birth of the Church in Acts 2.
- Death (Hades) has in fact been conquered (**see notes** Hebrews 2:14; 2:15) by Christ at Calvary.
- Death no longer has a sting for believers who compose the body of Christ, the Church. Therefore Hades which symbolizes the place of the unbelieving dead cannot prevail against those who are in the body of Christ, the

Church.

Rev 1:18: What is the relation of Jesus and Hades?

John records Jesus declaration that He is "the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades."

- Keys speak of Christ's authority over the power of life and death - to grant entrance and release in regard to Hades. Today the gospel of Jesus Christ represents Christ's gracious offer (as proclaimed through His servants, the saints) to take by grace through faith the "key" from Him which releases the repentant, believing sinner from relegation to Hades at the time of physical death. Instead the believer is now set free from fear of Hades

Lu 16:23

- Some call this a parable and some not a parable - In either case one can glean several facts that relate to the place called Hades. Some would disagree and say you cannot draw significant conclusions regarding the afterlife from Luke 16:19-32.

With that caveat and understanding what are the observations one can make from Luke 16:19-32-see verse by verse commentary?

- Rich man in hades = Unbeliever
- In torment
- Saw Abe far away Conscious exist
- No Second Chance
- No communication with the living.
- Our Lord conclusively teaches here that there is no possibility of repentance after death.
- The state of human beings in Hades is immediate and irreversible after death, although it does not constitute the eternal state, for Hades itself later becomes the exclusive place for unbelievers. It is cast into the lake of fire (see below Rev. 20:14),

Rev 20:13-14: What do you learn about Hades?

- Death & Hades had dead in them and were both thrown into Lake of Fire, the Second Death. Hades thus is a temporary holding tank for the unbelieving dead. If someone refuses Christ's free gift of salvation by grace through faith in this life, they go immediately to Hades when they die, where they will await their final judgment at the time of the Great White Throne described here in Revelation 20:11-14.

Ephesians 4:10 What is Paul's main point? What does it mean?

- That Christ might fill all things.

What does this mean?

- There is not a consensus but if one fills all, it would be tantamount to being over all or in control of all and seems to speak of our Lord's sovereignty over all things in all places for all times.

Ephesians 4:12-16 THE PURPOSE

Ephesians 4:12 What is the purpose of Christ's gift of gifted men to the Church?

Equipping of saints

(Equipping = katartismos - see word study)

Mt 4:21 This verse uses verb form of "equip" - what is the picture it gives?

The idea is to make one what he or she ought to be

Mend nets: Mending, preparing for service, getting ready for action

(See word study of katartizo)

Who does this equipping? How?

Pastor-Teachers who speak the "utterances of God" (cf **notes** 1 Peter 4:11)

The Word of God

(Not devotionals, not commentaries, etc but the pure milk of the word)

1 Peter 2:2 How vital is the Word to equipping?

Apart from the word there is no growth in respect to salvation!

(Cf Jesus statement that man does not live by bread alone but by every word...

What is the critically important point in regard to the local churches?

Pastor-Teachers must (not should but must) feed the sheep the Word.

Why equip saints?

For the work (ergon) of service.

Ergon is related to ergs a unit of measuring energy. The point is that the service will take work!

The tragedy is that most churches have reversed this dynamic divine design and have the "paid staff" doing the "**work of service**" that for the sake of the "common good" should be done by equipped gifted saints (Peter says we are all "priests"!) who, for the most part instead of being equipped, are sitting and soaking, listening to tapes, going to seminars, watching videos, etc, but failing to focus on the pure milk of the word, the only resource God promises is able to equip them! This is not meant to be mean spirited diatribe, but a cry in the wilderness for the preaching and teaching of the Word, accepting no substitutes. The substitutes can be very subtle. For example, there may be a very popular book or video series which includes a few Scriptures (often taken out of context) to add a sense of Biblical credibility, but which fails to focus on the pure, unadulterated milk of God's Word. We need to return to the "ancient paths". That is the spirit in which this cry is issued. May God in His great mercy and grace, heed His children's cry for spiritual food and be pleased to send His Word through gifted, faithful men, so that the times of refreshing can come from the presence of the Lord, the Living Word. Amen

What do saints?

In serving they build up body (quality not quantity)

Compare this dynamic to the call to make disciples as in 2 Timothy 2:2 (note)

How do saints build up the body? What are their tools?

The build with their spiritual gifts, those "tools" which which they are equipped as the gifted men feed them the Word of God. As they eat the Word, they grow in their grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and they become more aware of what gifts they possess and how those gifts are best utilized in the local body to which they belong.

In other words, these "tools" are honed and sharpened by the teaching of the pure milk of the word by the Pastor-Teachers -- who should be teaching not just the ABC's of Christianity but solid food!

Ephesians 4:13 What are the goals?

1) **All attain** (in Acts "attain" is used to mean to arrive at a destination!) **to unity of the faith** ("**the faith**" = not "belief" but body of truth believed)

2) **Knowledge of Son of God** = experiential knowledge, growing intimacy with Jesus (See word study epignosis)

Ephesians 4:13 What result attain unity & knowledge?

Maturity (wholeness) (See study of root word **teleios**)

In context see what maturity looks like (see **notes** Ephesians 4:2)

Ephesians 4:13 Goal of maturity?

Christlikeness - Measure of stature which belongs to fullness of Christ

Ephesians 4:14 When we are Christlike what danger avoid?

No longer = implies they were at one time acting like children.

Children (Literally means "not speaking", word for a helpless infant and in context describes spiritually immature)

See: notes Hebrews 5:12; 5:13; 5:14

See also 1Cor 3:1-4

Ephesians 4:14 What happens to immature? What is result of maturity?

Tossed (see word study kludonizomai) & carried by (see word study periphero)...

1) Winds of doctrine - - "religious fads", we have all seen these blow thru churches - can be destructive (church splits, etc)

2) Tricky men (dice loaded) (see word study of kubeia) - Idea is that they manipulate the truth to their advantage

3) Cunning method lead astray - cunning means they make error look like truth (See word study of panourgia) (See word study on method - methodeia)

Study the picture of meaning of panourgia -- craftiness or cunning -- in 2Cor 11:3

Note: The antidote for all 3 above is Pastor Teachers feeding sheep pure Word, solid food, not just ABC's - so that saints are maturing and able to discern good from evil (cf Heb 5:14) becoming Christlike (Ephesians 4:13)

Ephesians 4:15 What proper process for growth in Body?

Speaking truth (right doctrine) (includes idea of walking in truth)

Doing so in love (right spirit)

Ephesians 4:15 What result?

Grow up in all aspects into Christ

Christ = Goal

Ephesians 4:16 What is Christ regarding growth of body?

Not only goal but Source of growth

Ephesians 4:16 HOW BODY INTEGRATED?

Under Lord's direction (present = process)...

Being Fitted together

Being Held together

Under Lord's direction (**present tense** for both verbs indicates it is a process)...

Being Fitted together (see word study of sunarmologeio)

Being Held together

Note "being" is passive = action on saints from outside Source - shaping them, sanding them, fitting them as living stones into the Temple of the Lord, Dwelling of God cf Eph 2:21-22

Ephesians 4:16 How important is every member?

fitting & holding together is by what every joint supplies - each part working properly

Ephesians 4:16 What happens to body when each working properly (exercising gifts in His power for

His glory)?

Each working properly means each and every believer is exercising gifts in His power for His glory) Result is...

- 1) Body Grows
- 2) Builds self up

In what environment or sphere are they to grow up and build up?

In love (agape love = sacrificial, gives w/o expecting in return, fruit of Spirit, divine love as in John 3:16) (See word study of agape)

Centrality of love in Ephesians...

Ephesians 1:15 Your love for all the saints

Ephesians 4:2 Showing tolerance in love

Ephesians 4:15 Speaking the truth in love

Ephesians 4:16 Building itself up in love

Ephesians 3:17 Rooted and grounded in love

Ephesians 3:19 Praying they would know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge

Colossians 2:19 What does the parallel passage teach about growth of the body?

Must hold fast to Head = Christ

Head is ultimate source of growth

But "joints and ligament" (gifted saints) hold body together (when Pastor-Teachers are equipping them to understand and use their spiritual gifts)

APPLICATION

What is your spiritual gift?

Is it working properly contributing to the common good of the body?

What if a member of our human body is not "contributing"?

Are you a channel through which the living waters of the Spirit is flowing to others (as you use your gift) or are you like the dead sea, that is dead because it has no outflow?

We will be held accountable for how we used our gift...

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (2Cor 5:10)

Eph 4:32 = charizomai (Strong's 5483)

Luke 23:34 = aphiemi (Strong's 863) aphiemi