

# Ephesians: Unsearchable riches of Christ

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## Study 19: Grace is given to be used

**READ** Eph 4:7-12 and Psalm 68 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Craig Baxter's [sermon](#).

Paul moves from encouraging his readers toward unity (4:1-6) to informing them that there is also great diversity in the church. Paul explains that when Christ descended from glory to redeem His people from captivity and ascended back to His exalted place in Heaven He won the right to give enabling grace and specific gifts to His people for the building up of the body of Christ. These gifts are in the form of men to equip the saints and gifted saints to do the work of the ministry.

**Main lesson:** Every Christian is graced with gifts that Christ has secured for the building up of Christ's church for the extension of Christ's sovereign rule over the earth.

### Questions:

1. A. What are spiritual gifts and what are they for? See Rom 12:3-8; 1 Cor 12.

B. What does Paul mean by "the measure of Christ's gift" (v. 7)? See also 1 Cor 12:11). What does this teach you about our attitude we should have toward others with varying gifts? See also Rom 12:3-6; Eph 4:1-3.

2. **Challenge question:** In v. 8 Paul quotes Psalm 68:18. How do you account for the seeming discrepancy? Explain the relationship between the ascension of Jesus and the distribution of gifts to the church (vv. 8-10) and its relationship to Ps 68.

3. What do apostles and prophets refer to (v. 11)? How might they serve the church today? See Eph 2:20 and 3:5.

4. A. What do the evangelists and shepherds and teachers refer to?

B. What role do these groups play in building up the church (v. 12a)? What might this look like practically? How can you support your pastors in their role?

5. What role do the members of the church play (v. 12b)? Explain.

6. Why must a believer's purpose in life be tied into the local church? Are we as believers too individualistic? If so, how might we curb this trend?

7. What might a church look like where everyone is using their gifts? How might this correlate with Christ filling all things with His glory and rule (v. 10)?

8. What spiritual gifts do you have and how might these be used to build up the body of Christ? Who will you encourage today in their service for Christ?

### STOP AND PRAY:

**Adore:** Christ, who conquered our enemies and rescued us from bondage

**Thank:** the Lord for giving you specific enabling grace and gifts to serve His church

**Pray:** that you would be faithful to use your gifts for the building up of Christ's church