

Victory Gifts (Eph 4:7-10)

Think minute about best gift you have ever given anyone. Christmas present, special birthday, maybe engagement ring. Now I'm not gift giver (ask Jody kids), but I remember one time in particular very excited about giving a gift. Jody & I working Cru here at Penn State, Nicolle was about 2 ½. Received **g** a call from adoption agency working with, a birth mom chosen our profile. **s** Jody wasn't home time got Nicolle drove store get some flowers came home and waited to give one best gifts ever given. When she came home Nicolle **g** gave her flowers and said (remember) congratulations you're a new mommy. **B** Over 30 years ago I can still remember how excited I was to give Jody gift of good news. Indeed, it was good news a couple months later Chris was born adopt him into our family. **p** Tell story fun and good give you all a glimpse special moment lives, also thinking about giving that gift helps me to understand (in small way) what Jesus must feel as he gives gifts to us. That is what we will look at this morning in Eph 4:7-10.

Review 2 weeks ago

Diligent to maintain unity ours because we are **p** in Christ. Unity is important because it reflects who God is watching world. Application was prayerfully consider Christ-like character qualities, to evaluate our relationships and take any steps... Passage Paul switches focus from **g** whole the body of Christ to the **g** individual

Big Idea Jesus the victor gives unique gifts to His deeply loved children.

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it says,

*"When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men."*

⁹(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) Eph 4:7-10 ESV

Principle (7) *⁷But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Eph 4:7 ESV*

Jesus has given unique gifts to each one of us.

but in contrast focus one body 4-6

Grace was given, not saving grace, but grace to minister, grace to do the work of our calling almost exact phrase used in 3:8 Paul mentioned grace he was given to preach Gospel to Gentiles.

Was given (past tense other passages indicate at point of salvation)

Each one contrast to emphasis on all verse 4-6 now each individual.

This is unity through our diversity. Our unity does not mean our individuality or individual responsibility lost. **fs** Unity does reign in body, **fos** but Christ also works in and through each individual person to which he gives gifts

B According to the measure of. Vine's expository dictionary defines how measure used passage this way

the gift of grace is 'measured' and given according to the will of Christ; whatever the endowment, his is the bestowment and the adjustment (Vine)

Picture is this, God loves us & knows us carefully choosing perfect gift for us. Almost picture smile on his face, thinks through the possibilities **do it** deliberately selects and measures it out to us. Keep that picture in mind, that's how precious you are to God, and that's how precious his gift to you is.

Combine this picture with some words used earlier in Ephesians, every spiritual blessing, riches grace lavished upon, immeasurable greatness of his power, immeasurable riches grace, far more abundantly, point.

S God all powerful and all knowing father, delights to bless children, hand picks gives us grace-gifts with just us in mind. **G** No one else. **p** Wow. Blow mind? **step** listen here this morning watching and you don't feel special, know that you are special to God. **B**

Gift. Not normal word used gift, but more of a sacred trust or formal endowment for the purpose of service.

Principle this, **p** he has given **del** each and every one of us (**g** no exceptions) a special hand-picked gift through the generosity of Christ. goes on to paint a

Picture (8) Of what Jesus has done.

Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

Paul is apparently quoting Ps. 68:18 although some differences exist, many scholars believe quoting oral tradition based on passage. What Paul described is God's triumph over his enemies, a military victory if you will.

The Romans have specific word use triumph; word not used passage no doubt Paul's readers would clearly understand that the picture painting). What would take place after such a victory is "victory parade" where the king (often white horse) would **s** lead a procession through the streets city, **g** followed by conquering army dressed in armor sun glimmering of metal, followed by the captives in chains, humiliated in their defeat also captured livestock other spoils of victory. It was common for the King to **g** give gifts to people out of the abundance of his victory. **B** Paul takes this concept and applies it to Jesus. Jesus the king, the conquering general gives gifts to his people. Paul then gives a

Parenthetical Explanation (9-10)

⁹(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Lower regions, the earth many theories exactly what referring to. Main options seem to be

Lower parts i.e. the earth- incarnation

Grave under surface of earth, a reference to Jesus death

Hades (believed to be under earth) I Peter 3:19 Jesus went preached spirits in prison

Each of these views has strong defenders and I am not smart enough to figure out which is right. Certainly, the translators ESV go with first sees terms as appositives lower region, that is the earth. That He

Might fill all things.

The one who descended in the Incarnation is the same one who has ascended and is now exalted over all things. Whenever Paul mentions the ascension, he emphasizes Christ's authority and the fact that nothing is outside his jurisdiction or excluded from the benefit and wholeness he brings.

All together passage saying Jesus who left **g** heavenly home and came and **g** dwelt among us, has completely defeated the enemy and in His victory he has deliberately and joyfully given each one of us gifts to use in ministry to others. So what are some

Principles reflected in this passage 1st

Jesus is the Victor! What difference does His victory make in our lives? mention few key things.

His victory restores our relationship with the Father, John 14 Jesus said going father's house prepare place you know way Thomas said don't know going how know way Jesus said ... because he removed barrier between God and man as He paid sin through sacrifice cross relationship restored (by way 2 God and each other).

His victory removes our fear of death, I Cor. 15 death victory, sting, Thanks be to God he gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

His victory releases us from the power of sin.

¹⁷But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. Romans 6:17-18 ESV

His victory recruits us to the battle. Christ is victorious. We know end story he wins, but he calls us be a part of carrying out his victory as his (term before) "intimate allies". Imagine for minute being in physical presence Lord. He **g** motions you toward Himself and leans over and whispers in your ear **do it** Keith, I rescued you so we can enjoy sweet fellowship together for all of eternity, but I have something more for you as well.

Almost picture smile on His face and the glimmer in his eyes as he says I love you so much that I want you to be involved with me in the **slow and deliberate** greatest story ever told. It is a love story set amidst an epic battle between good an evil. I am at work calling a people to myself from all people on earth and Keith I have a crucial role for you to play. I have given you special gifts and abilities that are crucial to our effort.

It will not be easy, but I myself will lead us into battle, and will in fact fight through you. Keith, I am inviting you to experience a life of intimacy & impact. Wow! **G** How would I respond? **Qsg** Count me in right? **P**

Unfortunately, many of us hands pockets no thanks I'll just you know stay here in the stands and watch cheer you on, even throw few bucks in collection plate every week. Get in game **p g** no thanks it's safer & more comfortable here. **Step** Doesn't that sound crazy? Plead with you **g** don't do it, don't settle second best God has so much he wants to do in/through our lives but we need to be willing. **B** Leads second principle

Jesus gives grace gifts (Chris talk about next week) Are given for us to use to minister to others and build His kingdom. Again a few observations.

Given to all (no one excluded)

Given with us in mind Picture Jesus with glimmer eye hands us beautifully wrapped package. I chose this especially for you.

Given for the good of others, gifts he gives are ministry gifts necessary build body.

Given to be used. like way author Rick Warren said it "What I am is God's gift to me; what I do with it is my gift to Him." Scripture paints picture in heaven we will take our crowns (given for faithful service) throw at his feet he alone is worthy. Can't think anything more heart-wrenching than to have nothing to give.

Application

Join the victory by focusing on Jesus finished work on cross. Battle has been won, enemy is defeated, now we need to **g** live it out by knowing and acting on truth.

Use your gifts. Don't sit on sidelines, get in the game, there is life to be experienced. If you don't know gifts contact office like nothing better help figure it out so you can get of sidelines into game. Worship up

S Share heart a bit as we close, I desperately want us (self) to experience God's best! I want us to say yes Lord I want to join in your victory march, yes I will embrace and use your Grace-gifts given to me.

If that is true then invite you to stand and make this song the prayer of your heart. See a victory.

The victory that we are a part of has been achieved through the ultimate sacrifice as Jesus gave His life for us.

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. II Cor. 5:21
NLT

That is why we take time this morning to remember and celebrate...