

# L97 | Ephesians | "When Christ Ascended Up on High" | Eph. 4:7-16

## I. Intro/Review:

1. The Quality of Our Walk - Walk Worthy of Vocation
  1. With all
  2. Forbearing
  3. Endeavouring
  4. To Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
  
2. Composition of the Unity of the Spirit
  1. One body
  2. One Spirit
  3. One hope of calling
  4. One Lord
  5. One faith
  6. One baptism
  7. One God and Father of all
    - i. Above all
    - ii. Through all
    - iii. In you all

## II. Preview:

1. **The Function of Our Walk - Outline of Ephesians 4:7-16**
  
2. **Every One of Us is Given Grace**
  1. The Measure of the Gift of Christ
  
3. **When Christ Ascended Up on High**
  1. Descended First into the Lower Parts
  2. Same Also that Ascended Up Far Above All Heavens
  3. That He Might Fill All Things

## III. Sermon:

1. **Outline of Ephesians 4:7-16**
  1. :7 - Every one given grace
  2. :8-10 - Gave gifts by ascension
  3. :11 - Gave some
  4. :12 - Gave for
  5. :13 - Gave till and unto
  6. :14 - Henceforth
    1. Be no more children
    2. Speak the truth in love - grow up
    3. Increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love

**But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.  
{Ephesians 4:7}**

2. **Every One of Us is Given Grace - (1. :7 - Every one given grace)**

1. **"But"** - adverse conjunction; however, he continues to address our unity
2. **"unto every one of us is given"**
  - Expression of unity
  - Directly or indirectly
3. **"grace"** - gift(s) given
  - Eph. 3:7-8
  - Mentioned in v11
4. **"according to the measure of the gift of Christ."**
  - The grace is according to Christ
  - Eph. 3:7 - "...according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of His power."
  - The grace of God is in Christ
    - The grace given to Paul according to the grace of God is Christ, is the measure of the gift of Christ.
    - The grace (the gift) differs - but "the measure" is the measure, not "a" measure.
    - The measure of the gift of Christ
    - Christ is the gift, Christ is the measure of the gift and the "grace" given to every one of us - differs, but comes from Christ

**Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. {Ephesians 4:8-10}**

### **3. When Christ Ascended Up on High - (2. :8-10 - Gave gifts by ascension)**

- Paul moving into the gifts given unto every one of us according to the measure of the gift of Christ has Him think about that measure of Christ.
- This leads him to quote Ps. 68:18

#### **1. "Wherefore he saith" - quote Ps. 68**

- God says this
- David says this

#### **2. When He ascended up on high**

- **Two things**
  1. Led captivity captive - enemies
  2. Gave gifts unto men - the people

##### **1. Prophetically - Psalm 68**

- 1 Sam. 5:1-2 - ark of God the Philistines took - brought into the house of Dagon
- 1 Sam. 6:1 - for 7 months
- 1 Sam. 7:1-2 - 20 years in Kirjathjearim
- 2 Sam. 6:1-10 - Uzzah - 3 months in the house of Obbedom the Gittite (20 years 10 months)

- 1 Chr. 15:1-2, 15 - the priests need to carry
- 2 Sam. 6:12-19; 1 Chr. 15:1-29

2. Historical Picture

- A kingly ascent after victory in battle
- Kings conquering return
- Brings captive prisoners in triumph to demonstrate power
- Demands of ransom and tribute from the people (not David)
- Christ ascends and gives gifts to me - spiritual gifts - that He might fill all things

3. Here Paul is using this to speak of "the measure of the gift of Christ"

- Christ's ascension
  - Christ's leading captivity captive
  - Christ's giving gifts to men

**(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) {Ephesians 4:9-10}**

4. "Now that He ascended"

- Past tense - not Mt. Sinai, not the ark ascending to its place
  - Remember - Heb. 9:6-12, 23-24

5. "what is it but that He also descended first"

- "what is it?" - interrogative - what is the significance of this

5.1 - "He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?"

- What is it - descended where?
  1. Incarnation
  2. Descent to hell to deal with sins
  3. In death in the heart of the earth - preaches second chance
  4. **In death in the heart of the earth - preaches victory over enemies**
    - Did not bodily descend - 1 Pet. 3:18-22
    - Bodily resurrection
    - Bodily ascension
    - Php. 2:9-11

5.2 - Gesture of possession

- Gen. 13:14-17
- Job 1:6-7, 2:1-2

5.3 - Romans 8:38-39

- Nor height, nor depth

5.4 - Led captivity captive - all power (heaven, earth, under the earth)

1. Captivity

- Description of the powers of evil that once held others captive, now

made captive of Christ

- Ephesians 1:19-23 - "far above all principality..."
  - 2 Pet. 2:4-5
  - Jude 1:6
- Judges 4-5
- Subdue enemies and liberate those held captive
  - Heb. 2 - power of death
  - Col. 1 - delivered from power of darkness
  - Acts 26:18
  - Col. 2:14-15 - made of shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it

## 2. Liberation

- Those held captive
- OT saints
  - Jude 1:14
  - Heb. 12:23
  - Luke 16:19-31; Luke 23:43 (2 Cor. 12:4)
    - Rom. 3:23-26

## 6. "He that descended is the same also that ascended"

- The same also - disembodied to glorified body
  - The descent doesn't stop the ascent
  - Ascent is "for us" - Rom. 8
  - Ascent two-fold
    1. To go to glory that we may be with Him - Jn. 17:24
    2. To fill all things - Eph. 1:22-23, 2:19-22, 3:16-19

6.1 - "far above all heavens"

6.2 - "that He might fill all things"

- Ascended not to abandon all things, but to fill all things
- All power, authority - 1 Cor. 15; Eph. 1; Heb. 2; 1 Pet. 2

## IV. Conclusion:

- Victory over enemies liberates those held captive
  - None can escape His hand
- Isa. 49:24; Jer. 31:11; Matt. 12:24-29