

L99 | Ephesians | "Christ's Descent & Ascent" | Eph. 4:7-16

I. Intro/Review:

1. The Measure of the Gift of Christ (Paul's Ephesians 3 Prayer) - Christ in all that He has done would have place within your heart by faith
 1. Christometry
 - His love wasn't done at Calvary, depth over enemies under the earth, height over enemies in the heaven above - continues in His intercession.
 - The measure of the gift of Christ = the breadth, length, depth, height of the love of Christ
 - His love in all that He has done, is doing, and will do for us
 2. When He Ascended - He Led Captivity Captive (Three Parties)
 1. Leader - "led" - Christ
 2. Captors - "captivity" - enemies
 3. Captives - "captivity" - free - victims of those enemies (not automatically)

II. Preview:

1. **First Christ's Descent, The Same Christ's Ascent**

1. **Christ's Descent First**

- Who are the captors that become captive in His descent?

2. **The Same Christ Ascent**

- Who are the captors that become captive in His ascent?

3. **Summary**

2. **That He Might Fill All Things**

3. **Main Objectives**

1. How is Christ's descent and ascent His love?
2. How does Christ's descent and ascent provide that He might fill all things?
3. How is He and will He fill all things?
4. How do the gifts factor into His filling all things?

III. Sermon:

1. **First Christ's Descent, The Same Christ's Ascent**

- Overall
 - Gesture of possession, ownership, and authority over enemies their territories and powers
 - Principality, power, might, throne, and dominion

- Gen. 13:14-17

- Job 1:6-7, 2:1-2
- Height & Depth
 - Romans 8:38-39 - Nor height, nor depth

1. Christ's Descent First

1.1 - Lowers Parts of the Earth

- Expressions - actual place
 1. **Heart of the Earth**
 - Matt. 12:40 - "...in the heart of the earth."
 2. **Under the Earth**
 - Php. 2:10 - "...and things under the earth;"
 - Rev. 5:3 - "And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon."
 - Rev. 5:13 - "And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth"
 3. **Hell**
 - Luk. 16:23 - "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."
 - Isa. 14:15 - "...down to hell, to the sides of the pit"
 - **Bottomless Pit**
 - Rev. 9:1-2, 11, 11:7, 17:8, 20:1, 3
 - Key, smoke, furnance, darkness, shut up, seal
 - **Under Darkness**
 - Jud. 1:6 (2 Pet. 2:4)
- Death & Hell (torments) - They go together
 - (Psalm 55:15) Let death seize upon them, [and] let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness [is] in their dwellings, [and] among them.
 - (Psalm 116:3) The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow.
 - (Isaiah 28:15) Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:
 - (Isaiah 28:18) And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.

- (Revelation 1:18) I [am] he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.
- (Revelation 6:8) And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.
- (Revelation 20:13-14) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

1.2 - Lowers Parts of the Earth in Connection with Captivity

1. **Captors** - sin, death, hell, darkness (principalities and powers)

- (Psalm 10:15) Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil [man]: seek out his wickedness [till] thou find none.

1. Enemies that our adversary and God's used against us - 1 Cor. 15 - enemies

- Sin & its wages - on the Cross
 - Rom. 3:20-21
 - The law - Col. 2; Rom. 7
 - Wages of sin - forgiveness
 - Ransom - paid the price - bought with a price (sin no longer our master)

2. Death - in resurrection

- Heb. 2:2-16 {14} - "that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;"

3. Hell - in death, resurrection, and ascension

- Matt. 16:13-20 - gates of hell
- Rev. 1:8, 6:8, 20:13-14 (nor depth) - keys of death and hell
- 1 Pet. 3:18-22 - angels, authorities, powers made subject to Him
 - Even the spirits in prison
 - 2 Pet. 2:4-10 - "angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell"
 - Jud. 1:6 - "angels which kept not their first estate (principality), but left their own habitation"

4. Principalities, powers, might, thrones, and dominions

- Eph. 1:19-23
- Col. 1:15-20

2. **Captives** - Old Testament saints - those held captive

- Jude 1:14
- Heb. 12:23 (Heb. 12:1 - cloud of witness)

- Luke 16:19-31; Luke 23:43 (2 Cor. 12:4)
 - Rom. 3:23-26
- Body & spirit
 - Acts 2:29-35
- Ongoing
 - Acts 26:18
- Able to free, liberate initially and finally totally.

2. Also Christ's Ascent

2.1 - Far Above All Heavens

- Heb. 2:8; 1 Pet. 3:22, Eph. 6:12, 4:10, 1:21, Php. 2:9-11, Col. 1:16-20, 2:9-10, 15
1. All is made subject to Him - given all power and authority
 2. Subdue
 - 1 Cor. 15
 - Php. 3
 - Col. 2

3. Summary

- 1 Cor. 15 - victory
- Col. 2 - triumph over them in it
- The power and position to have the preeminence, to be in all things, to fill all things

2. That He Might Fill All Things

- All authority - Eph. 1, Col. 1
- Conversation meet and fitting for the authority (Rom. 1) - Eph. 2 - good works ordained before
- Christ in you (Eph. 3 prayer), in all (Col. 3)
- Col. 1 - might have the preeminence (glorified together)

IV. Conclusion:

• Main Objectives - Questions to Answer

1. How is Christ's descent and ascent His love?
2. How does Christ's descent and ascent provide that He might fill all things?
3. How is He and will He fill all things?
4. How do the gifts factor into His filling all things?

1. How is Christ's descent and ascent His love?

1. In Christ's descent and ascent He address all His enemies and His enemies are ultimately our enemies (Rom. 8)
2. He has found out all enemies and has authority and power over them all

3. That same Christ is the Head of the body - therefore your relationship to His enemies has changed

2. How does Christ's descent and ascent provide that He might fill all things?

1. His power and authority over them gives Him the provision to do what He may
2. The Father's eternal purpose is in Christ and to fill all things
3. Ephesians 1 tells us that all things will be gathered together in Christ and that Christ filleth all in all.

3. How is He and will He fill all things?

1. His power and authority does not automatically fill all things
2. The ultimate filling will be when we are glorified together with Christ (Rom. 8)
3. Currently, He is building something to fill all things (Eph. 2)
4. Christ in you (Eph. 3 & Col. 1)

4. How do the gifts factor into His fillings all things?

1. The gifts were the initial grace of God to the church to build and fill the church with Himself
 2. The body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, begun - worked - and finished by Christ will fill all the things that are currently subject to Christ and finally will be subdued by the body - Christ being the head.
 - Rom. 16; Eph. 3
- Ephesians 4:8-10 is Paul digressing to further authenticate the exceeding greatness of God's power wrought in Christ and His authority over all enemies on earth, under the earth and in the heavenly places.
 - Under His feet
 - As well as, the love of Christ for the church, His body, its degree and measure (the measure of the gift of Christ) concerning its depth and height to comprehend.
 - From His power to work all things after the counsel of His own will to bring about His family, His church called out from His enemies, establish, and build them up - dwell in them forever and dwell among them forever.