



THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

CHRIST THE LORD PARISH

1-5 ADMIRALITY ROAD, LEKKI PHASE 1, LEKKI

Digging Deep – Tuesday, Sept 12, 2023

Topic: BOOK OF EPHESIANS (6) – GIFTS FROM THE ASCENDED LORD

Key Text: Ephesians 4:4-16

Introduction

We have come to the portion of the book of Ephesians that deal with the gifts of God to His Church. Our text for today starts with an emphasis on the fundamental facts of the Christian faith. These are also the unifying features of our faith we must all rally around rather than the peripherals that tend to divide. Eph 4:4-6 makes it clear that we are **one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all**. It is therefore important that as we review the gifts from the Lord, we remember the purpose of the gifts and the end of it – to strengthen the body. The diversity of gifts is not meant to birth a diverse church but strengthen a united church.

OUTLINE 1: THE GIVER & RECIPIENTS OF THE GIFTS

Scriptures – Eph 4:7-8, 11

- A. The gifts come from grace that is available to EVERYONE
- B. The measure that is given to everyone is a GIFT of Christ
- C. The gifts come from a VICTORIOUS Christ – He has taken captive all captivity (Ps 68:18-19)
- D. Beyond the gifts noted in our text and in 1 Cor 12:8-10, we see that victorious Jesus daily loads us with benefits (Ps 68:19)
- E. Every true believer is a beneficiary of the gifts (v7, 1 Cor 12:4)
- F. We have a common purpose for the gifts (1 Pet 4:10)

OUTLINE 2: DIVERSITY OF GIFTS

Scriptures – Eph 4:11

There are five kinds of gifts

- A. Apostles and prophets – purpose of laying the foundations of the Church (Eph 2:20)
- B. Evangelists – directed towards the unconverted (2 Tim 4:5)
- C. Pastors – these are shepherds who care for the sheep in Christ's fold (John 21:15-17; Acts 20:28)
- D. Teachers – purpose is to instruct the Church, to give milk to the babes and meat to the matured to ensure that there is growth and stability (1 Pet 2:2; Heb 5:14)

OUTLINE 3: THE PURPOSE AND DURATION OF THE GIFTS

Scriptures – Eph 4:12-14)

Overarching purpose is to build the church; broken down into 3 components:

- A. Prepare believers for service - the evangelists, pastors, prophets and teachers (per ordination and appointment) are not to do all the service themselves but are so appointed to build up the saints to function actively as members of the Body
- B. Growth – God does not want us to remain babies spiritually but desires that we mature. Hence, His gifts are meant to ensure that members of the Body do mature...how mature are you? (1 Cor 3:1-3, 2 Pet 3:18))
- C. Keep us from harm – The enemy is prowling and looking for opportunity to deceive even the elect. He uses false prophets and their destructive heresies. The Lord has therefore appointed teachers in the Body to instruct saints in the truth and to know how to detect the devils agents and wiles. Eph 4:13 tells us the ultimate purpose (Mat 24:24; Mark 13:22; 2 Pet 2:1) –
 - i. unity of the faith
 - ii. fulness of the knowledge of the Son of God
 - iii. a perfect man
 - iv. measure of the stature and the fulness of Christ
- D. The gifts are required until we are with Christ in eternity – at that time, there will be no more room for or need for gifts...we would be enjoying the SOURCE OF ALL GIFTS.

Conclusion:

We (as long as we are true members of the Body of Christ) have all been endowed with the gifts from our Lord; the source of all spiritual gifts. We are to use the gifts to advance His Church.

The question that remains are: Do you know your gift(s)? Are you using the gift(s) for His purpose?