

## **Grace Gifts (Ephesians 4:7-10)**

- I. **Introduction**
  - A. Illustration: The church as a 1000 piece puzzle
  - B. Main point: **Unity does not imply uniformity**
  - C. Reading the text Ephesians 4:7-10
- II. **But ... each one has one** (Eph 4:7)
  - A. From *all of us* to *each of us*
    1. Grace gifts are given in a different variety and measure
    2. Understanding the variety of gifts is a key to understanding and loving one another
    3. A Gift catalog
      - a. Romans 12:3-8
      - b. 1 Corinthians 12:4-29
- III. **How did Christ arrive in the position to be able to give gifts to men** (Eph 4:8-10)
  - A. Psalm 68 – a triumphant procession
    1. A textual problem – did He *receive* or *give* gifts? Does Paul misquote Psalm 68?
    2. The liturgical use of Psalm 68 at Pentecost
    3. Acts 2:33 – in order to give, Jesus had to first ascend and receive.
  - B. Ascending and Descending
    1. Where did Christ descend to? (***the lower parts of the earth***)
      - a. The womb (Psalm 139:15)
      - b. The grave
      - c. Hell (*limbus patrum - Abraham's bosom*)
      - d. Hell (to suffer)
    2. Why I do not believe he descended into hell
      - a. Descending is the opposite of ascending
      - b. Leading captivity captive refers to enemies not OT saints
      - c. There is no indication of any batter after the cross
      - d. Paul could have used a much clearer term for hell
      - e. Compare the Scriptures (Jn 8:23, Acts 2:19, Is 44:23)
    3. Christ descended from heaven to earth in the incarnation, suffered and died on the cross, and rose on the third day.
    4. He vanquished the enemies of mankind and from His exalted position (Col 2:13-15)
    5. He gave gifts to men beginning at Pentecost
- IV. **Application**
  - A. Are you aware of the gifts God has given you?
  - B. Are you taking the necessary measures to nurture and use those gifts?
    1. Remember the wicked servant of Matthew 25
  - C. 1 Peter 4:10-11

*As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*