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**Last time we ended with the “gifts” or gifted men that Christ gave to His church: “Remember Ephesians 4:8: “When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men”**

This being a quotation used by Paul from Psalm 68. The Lord Jesus leading “captivity captive” literally means, He led His foes as captives and defeated prisoners after He conquered them. Paul presents this to us in the imagery of Kings and Generals of old would lead their prisoners behind their chariots after a great victory.

As those victorious Kings and Generals gave gifts to their people, the Lord Jesus; “gave gifts unto men”, or gave “gifted men” to His church.

These men laid the doctrinal foundation for His church, and then afterward, God called/calls men in every generation to watch, oversee, feed, edify, and build His church.

**If you recall from 1 Corinthians 12, the focus of the Apostle Paul was on “spiritual gifts”, but here his emphasis is on “gifted men” given to the church by the Lord Jesus Christ.**

And every one of these “gifted men” were & are heralds of truth and preachers of the gospel. Therefore, we should understand that the most important aspect or activity of the local NT church is preaching the gospel and proclaiming the truth of God’s Word. And this is where we left off last Wednesday, with the “gifts” or “gifted men” given by the Lord Jesus to His church.

*Ephesians 4:11: “And He gave some apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers”.*

**We talked about Apostles and Prophets on Sunday, tonight we pick up with Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers.**

Apostles and Prophets spoke and wrote infallibly, and were given “new revelation” from God. We now have the completed canon of Holy Scripture, the two (2) offices of Apostles/Prophets have ceased.

**“Evangelists”:** Itinerant ~ Traveling Preachers, gifted by the Lord to communicate the gospel and to evangelize communities. They are Proclaimers/Preachers of the good news of the gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven; a seeker of lost souls. Pastors are called to do the work of an evangelist. *2 Timothy 4:5, Philip was called an Evangelist: Acts 21:8*

**Pastors and Teachers: I believe these to be the one and the same 1<sup>st</sup>: from how the text reads, and 2<sup>nd</sup>: By the fact that one of the qualifications of Pastors is they MUST BE “APT TO TEACH”.**

Therefore, if you’re called to be a Pastor, you are ALSO called to Teach the truths of the gospel of the Kingdom of Christ! Every Pastor is a Teacher, but not all teachers are pastors.

**“Pastors” (Greek: Poimen) literally means a “shepherd”;** one who herds and watches over a flock of sheep. (In Biblical terms, the sheep of Christ’s pasture, a local NT church).

Pastors/Under-shepherds are called to feed the sheep, to watch over & protect them; lead & guide their flocks into green pastures; nurse sick sheep back to health & seek straying sheep to restore them to the flock.

Jeremiah 3:15, Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:1-2

Pastors should “emulate” their Great Example, the Good ~ Chief-Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 13:20, 1 Peter 2:25, Mark 6:30-34

Under-Shepherds are to consistently point the Lord’s Sheep to Him!

### **Pastors are also called: Bishops & Elders:**

**Bishop: Episkopay:** 1 Timothy 3:1, Philippians 1:1: Meaning one who is a Spiritual Superintendent, who inspects and deliberately looks after, and also looks out for; and visits and relieves.

Preaching and teaching is only one aspect of a pastor’s calling. This includes the hours of preparation and study needed; but there is also the burden of oversight and looking out for the sheep; visiting and relieving the sheep, and the unseen work of praying for them.

**Elder: Presbuteros:** Although this term may be used in the scriptures to describe one who is older; in the context of which the apostles used it in the following passages, it refers to Pastors.

To simply be “older” in the faith (in years) does not qualify a man to be an Elder/Pastor in the church, but there MUST BE soundness in the faith, their wisdom, and yes, there must be years & experience.

He must be apt to teach and spiritually mature in the faith.

1 Timothy 5:1, 17-20, 1 Peter 5:1-3

### **Acts 20:28-31 gives us a full picture of the Pastor’s responsibilities:**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Take heed therefore unto yourselves:** This is the first order of business for the pastor! Give attendance to and apply yourself and your mind TO YOURSELF spiritually! This so that you will be sober, vigilant, and spiritually aware and able to attend to the flock of God.

**2<sup>nd</sup>: And then (TAKE HEED) to all the flock:** Flock is the word “Poimnion” with is akin to “Poimen” or the word for pastor.

**3<sup>rd</sup>: “Over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers”:**

Overseers is “Episkopos” or “Bishops and Superintendents”; those whom God has called to “Oversight” of His flock or local assembly.

**4<sup>th</sup>: “Feed the church of God”:** “Feed or Poymaino” again, akin to the word for pastor means to tend to, to shepherd, and to rule.

**5<sup>th</sup>: “Which He hath purchased with His own blood”:** Pastors must never forget that the sheep BELONG to Christ! Pastors are stewards call by God to oversee, feed, watch, protect, and care for the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “I will build MY CHURCH”.

1 Timothy 3, Titus 1