

Christ's Work in His Church Ephesians 4:7-16

Christ's Work Involves Gifts (Vv. 7-11)

- His Gift of _____ (Vv. 7-10)
- His Gift of _____ (V. 11)

NOTE: The following definitions and descriptions of the church offices are from the Bible Dictionary on the Olive Tree Bible Software:

Apostles – A delegate; specially, an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ (“apostle”) (with miraculous powers – *2 Corinthians 12:12*): — apostle, messenger, he that is sent.

AV (81) – apostle 78, messenger 2, he that is sent 1;

1. A delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders
 - a. Specifically applied to the twelve apostles of Christ
 - b. In a broader sense applied to other eminent Christian teachers
 - i. Of Paul – (*1 Timothy 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:11*)
 - ii. Of Barnabas – *Not specifically described as an apostle, but he and Paul appointed elders in the churches – Acts 12:23*
 - iii. Of Timothy and Silvanus (*also called Silas*) – *Neither of these men were specifically described as apostles, but they traveled with Paul and helped him in writing some of his letters*

Prophets — A foreteller (“prophet”); by analogy, an inspired speaker; by extension, a poet: — Prophet

AV(149) – prophet 149;

1. In Greek writings, an interpreter of oracles or of other hidden things
2. One who, moved by the Spirit of God and hence His organ or spokesman, solemnly declares to men what he has received by inspiration, especially concerning future events, and in particular such as relate to the cause and kingdom of God and to human salvation
 - a. The OT prophets, having foretold the kingdom, deeds and death of Jesus the Messiah.
 - b. Of John the Baptist, the herald of Jesus the Messiah
 - c. Of the illustrious prophet, the Jews expected before the advent of the Messiah
 - d. The Messiah
 - e. Of men filled with the Spirit of God, who by God’s authority and command in words of weight pleads the cause of God and urges salvation of men
 - f. Of prophets that appeared in the apostolic age among Christians
 - i. They are associated with the apostles
 - ii. They discerned and did what was best for the Christian cause, foretelling certain future events (*Acts 11:27*)

- iii. In the religious assemblies of the Christians, they were moved by the Holy Spirit to speak, having power to instruct, comfort, encourage, rebuke, convict, and stimulate their hearers
- iv. A poet (because poets were believed to sing under divine inspiration)
 - 1. Of Epimenides (Titus 1:12)

Evangelists – A preacher of the gospel: — evangelist.

AV (3) – evangelist 3;

- 1. A bringer of good tidings, an evangelist
- 2. The name given in the NT heralds of salvation through Christ who are not apostles

NOTE – *Philip, one of the seven listed in Acs 6 to tend to the feeding of the widows, would later be described as “Philip the evangelist”*

- Acts 8:4-13 – *Philip preached the gospel in Samaria where many became followers of Jesus Christ. God also used him to perform miraculous signs.*
- Acts 8:26-39 – *Philip evangelized and baptized the Ethiopian Eunuch*
- Acts 21:8 – *Philip, then living in Caesarea, was described as “the evangelist”*

Pastors – A shepherd (literally or figuratively): —shepherd, pastor.

AV (18) – shepherd 15, Shepherd 2, pastor 1;

- 1. A herdsman, esp. a shepherd
 - a. In the parable, he to whose care and control others have committed themselves, and whose precepts they follow
- 2. Metaphorically
 - a. The presiding officer, manager, director, of any assembly; so of Christ the Head of the church.
 - i. Of the overseers of the Christian assemblies
 - ii. Of kings and princes – The tasks of a Near Eastern shepherd were: - to watch for enemies trying to attack the sheep – to defend the sheep from attackers – to heal the wounded and sick sheep – to find and save lost or trapped sheep – to love them, sharing their lives and so earning their trust. During World War II, a shepherd was a pilot who guided another pilot whose plane was partially disabled back to the base or carrier by flying alongside him to maintain visual contact.

Teachers – An instructor (generative case or specially): — doctor, master, teacher.

AV (58) – Master (Jesus) 40, teacher 10, master 7, doctor 1;

- 1. A teacher
- 2. In the NT one who teaches concerning the things of God, and the duties of man
 - a. One who is fitted to teach, or thinks himself so
 - b. The teachers of the Jewish religion
 - c. Of those who by their great power as teachers draw crowds around them i.e. John the Baptist, Jesus
 - d. By preeminence used of Jesus by Himself, as one who showed men the way of salvation

- e. Of the apostles, and of Paul
- f. Of those in the religious assemblies of the Christians, undertook the work of teaching, with the special assistance of the Holy Spirit
- g. Of false teachers among Christians

NOTE: *The words in italics in this section are not in the dictionary. Everything NOT in italics is a direct quote from the Bible Dictionary.*

Christ's Leaders have a Specific Function (V. 12)

- _____ Christians in the work of ministry
- _____ the body of Christ

Christ's Work has Progressive Results (Vv. 13-16)

- _____ in the faith
- _____ in the knowledge of Jesus Christ
- _____ maturity
- _____ soundness (V. 14)
- _____ encouragement (V. 15)
- It is from _____ (V. 16)
- It involves _____ believers (V. 16)

Conclusion: Jesus Christ has a plan for His church. The church has a responsibility to live out His plan! What am I doing or what will I do to fulfill the calling God has entrusted to me?