

Ephesians 4:8-12

Date | 02/05/12

8 Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." 9 (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

Paul explains here that Jesus has ascended and given the church leaders to prepare them for their ministry.

The ascension (vs. 8-10)

1. Read Psalm 68. What is it about?
2. How does the Ascension relate to this psalm?
3. Read Acts 2:33. How does the ascension relate to Jesus' giving gifts to his church?

The leaders (vs. 11)

1. Describe the offices listed in vs. 11.
2. Read Ephesians 2:20 and 3:5. What separates the apostles and prophets from the rest of the offices in this list?
3. Do any of you feel a calling to aspire to any of these roles?

The purpose (vs. 12)

1. According to vs. 12, how do these offices relate to the rest of the church?
2. Paul states that its not the pastors who do the ministry, but that pastors equip the church for their ministry. Did that differ from your own understanding?
3. How do you discover your role in building up the body of Christ?
4. **Read next weeks passage (4:13-16) and pray that God would help you to better understand your role in the body of Christ.**