

056 - He Gave Some, Prophets - Ephesians 4:11

Call to Worship: Luke 1:67-68

Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David

Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 20:14-27

Sermon: "He Gave Some, Prophets" Ephesians 4:11

Benediction: Romans 3:21-22

INTRODUCTION

Salvation of sinners by God, through His Son Jesus Christ, and by the powerful working of His Holy Spirit, is all of grace, because none of us is worthy of it; none of us can earn it. But God loves the unlovely; He favors those who have nothing to recommend them. When God has given to a sinner, by His grace, pardon regarding the punishment due his sins, and eternal life in place of the everlasting death his sins deserve, God does not stop giving! Instead, He keeps giving, adding blessings of His grace on top of all He has done in salvation.

One way He adds these blessings of grace is that He gives, by Jesus Christ, gifts to His people, on an individual basis, to be used to the good of the whole church.

This is a great blessing of His grace, but must be handled carefully. Any time the Lord does something good, the devil is right there trying to twist it. And the remaining sin in our own flesh would tempt us to all kinds of sinful thoughts, attitudes, words, and even actions regarding the individual gifts of grace in the church. These gifts, which are given to help the church live as unified, one body, often can become points of contention by which the church is divided rather than unified.

Therefore the Lord's apostle teaches us that these individual gifts are distributed according to the perfect will of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gives gifts as He sees fit. So we are to accept gratefully and rejoice in all these gifts rather than becoming prideful, jealous, envious, or anything like that.

Some of the gifts have to do with the preaching and teaching of the Word of God. Here in Ephesians 4, Paul does not teach us in depth about all gifts, but just these. He teaches us about them in an ordered list. These gifted men listed here being so important in God's church, and these terms having been so misunderstood and abused so many times, I'm taking them somewhat slowly and carefully during this study, hoping to bring forth the bible's truth regarding them, and to dispell some false notions regarding them.

Today we take up the second term: prophets.

TEXT

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

BODY

- I. In what ways God blessed people by giving them the prophets
 - A. In the Old Testament
 1. The prophets reminded God's people of the great things God had done for them (Judges 6:8-9)
 - a) "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage; and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land.
 2. The prophets rebuked God's people when they were sinning, and exhorted them to love and serve God (1 Kings 18:21)
 - a) "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him."
 3. The prophets prayed for God's people when they were threatened by their enemies (2 Chronicles 32:20)
 4. The prophets set an example for God's people of how to endure suffering, persevering in the faith patiently (James 5:10-11)
 5. The prophets warned the Gentiles that they must repent of their sins before God or be destroyed (Jonah 3:4)

Jonah 3:4-5 And Jonah began to enter into the city . . . and he cried out, and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown." (5) So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.
 6. The prophets comforted God's people with promises that Messiah would come, and would deal with their sins by taking their punishment upon Himself (Is 53:5)

Isaiah 53:4-6 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. (5) But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. (6) All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
 - B. In the New Testament

1. They warned God's people of danger, so that God's people could prepare to face it (Acts 11:27-30; 21:10-11)

"Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.' "
2. They encouraged and strengthened the Christians with their words (Acts 15:32)
3. They revealed the mystery that the Gentiles who believe in Christ would be saved together with the Jews who believe, as one new man in Christ (Ephesians 3:5-6)
4. They told God's people what men the Holy Spirit had called to be missionaries, to take the gospel message to the Gentiles (Acts 13:2)

"Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
5. They, in what they revealed about Jesus Christ, became the very foundation stones upon which the church of Jesus Christ is being built (Ephesians 2:20)

II. How God gave the message that He sent through the prophets

A. Method in two parts

1. The Holy Spirit worked in them immediately [explain]
2. Causing them to know and speak the very words of God

B. Example from the OT

Ezekiel 11:4-5 Therefore prophesy against them, **prophesy, O son of man!" (5) Then the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and said to me, "Speak! 'Thus says the LORD:**

C. Example from the OT

Zechariah 7:12 Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the **words** which the LORD of hosts had sent **by His Spirit through the former prophets.**

D. Example from the NT

Acts 21:10-11 And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. (11) When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "**Thus says the Holy Spirit,** 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.' "

E. APPLICATION: See in this that OT and NT prophet were essentially the same.

III. The Scriptures Mention the OT Prophets and NT Prophets Without Differentiating Between Them

A. Acts

1. Acts 8:28 sitting in his chariot, he was reading **Isaiah** the prophet.
2. Acts 13:1 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain **prophets**

3. Acts 13:20 [Paul speaking] "After that He gave them judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until **Samuel** the prophet.
4. Acts 15:32 Now **Judas** and **Silas**, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words.

B. Paul in His letters

1. Romans 1:1-2 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God (2) which He promised before through His **prophets** in the Holy Scriptures,
2. Ephesians 4:11 And He gave some apostles, some **prophets**

C. Revelation

1. Revelation 10:7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the **prophets**.
2. Revelation 18:20 "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and **prophets**,

D. APPLICATION: See in this, also, that OT and NT prophets were essentially the same.

IV. The Scriptures Record Christ's Gift of Prophets; Such Prophets, as the Apostles, Are Not to Be Found in the Church Today

A. We do not prove this by citing a scripture that says, "From this point on there is are no more prophets," because the Prophets were still in the church during the whole writing of the scriptures.

1. we observe in the scriptures what they were like, and what their purpose was, to speak the Word of God to people before the whole of the scriptures were written
2. we observe that after that first generation they disappeared from the church
3. we observe that no one since has been attested to the church by miraculous signs accompanied by unfailing accuracy of prediction
 - a) JRY: we are right, not wrong, to be skeptical about anyone claiming to be a prophet or to speak prophetically, as 1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
 - b) JRY: the burden of proof is on the one claiming prophetic utterance, not on us skeptical of it
4. we trust the Lord, that if He were to send prophets, He would convince us of it

B. John L. Dagg

1. This office was needed, before the volume of divine revelation was completed.
2. The absence of the gift proves the cessation of the prophetic office.

3. The absence of the prophetic gift in modern times, demonstrates that the Holy Spirit, who imparts every needful gift, accounts further revelation unnecessary. The absence of the gift proves the sufficiency of the Scriptures

V. APPLICATION

- A. Notice that the Lord God knows what you need, and has sent His Word through the prophets to help you
 1. you are distressed about your own remaining sinfulness
 2. you are forgetful regarding what the Lord has done for you
 3. you tend to feel scared and weak in the face of whatever dangers seem to threaten you
- B. Be released from any burden you have been carrying regarding the idea of receiving a word from the Lord in these days; in the generation of the founding of the New Covenant church, the Lord Jesus provided some prophets; He caused people to prophesy; some of that prophecy was written down and preserved for us
 1. that you must give any credit to someone who says that the Lord told him certain words
 2. that you must desire or seek or wait for words from the Lord before you can know what to do
 - a) "Lord, help me decide well" Yes!
 - b) expect to hear words from Him? No!
 3. that words which form in your mind are the Word of the Lord, and you must abide by them
- C. [from Richard Caldwell, Founders Baptist Church in Houston] Be content to read of what miraculous things the Lord has done in certain generations, by His will, rather than insisting that He do them in your generation
- D. Be warned against anyone who says he is a prophet or that he prophesies.
- E. Replace your interest in false notions of the Word of the Lord with interest in the actual Word of the Lord, given through His prophets, recorded in the bible

CONCLUSION

Revelation 22:1-7 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. (2) In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (3) And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. (4) They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. (5) There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. (6) Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. (7) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

prophets [G4396 prophetes]

Ellicott:

probably, best described by the two phrases so constantly applied to the prophets of the Old Testament—"the word of the Lord came to me;" "the Spirit of the Lord was upon me."

Caldwell

pastor teacher refers to one office
a pastor is a shepherd who instructs

He is not giving Evangelists today

-to comfort to those who are criticised for looking to the Word of God and not believing people's testimony of God revealing things to them; "put God in a box"

-to rescue the hearts and minds of sincere believers who have been told they have to look for something more

-people demand that God do in their generation what He sovereignly chose to do in other generations

Jude 1:3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

JRY: Prophets are not something different in the New Testament than what they were in the Old Testament.

In Acts, the OT prophets and NT prophets are mentioned with no apparent contrast

Acts 2:16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet **Joel**:

Acts 2:29-30 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch **David**, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. (30) Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne,

Acts 3:24 Yes, and all the prophets, from **Samuel** and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.

Acts 8:28 sitting in his chariot, he was reading **Isaiah** the prophet.

Acts 11:27-28 And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. (28) Then one of them, named **Agabus**, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.

Acts 13:1-2 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. (2) As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Acts 13:20 "After that He gave them judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until **Samuel** the prophet.

Acts 15:32 Now **Judas** and **Silas**, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words.

Acts 21:10-11 And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named **Agabus** came down from Judea. (11) When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.' "

Acts 28:25 So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through **Isaiah** the prophet to our fathers,

The OT prophets and NT spoke by an immediate inspiration of the Holy Spirit

2 Peter 1:21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were **moved by the Holy Spirit**.

Acts 11:27-28 And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. (28) Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and **showed by the Spirit** that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.

Acts 15:32 Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words.

Acts 21:8-11 On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. (9) Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. (10) And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. (11) When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "**Thus says the Holy Spirit**, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.' "

Ephesians 3:5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been **revealed by the Spirit** to His holy apostles and prophets:

Dagg:

Prophets were persons divinely inspired to make revelation from God, consisting sometimes in the foretelling of future events. This office was needed, before the volume of divine revelation was completed. The absence of the prophetic gift in modern times, demonstrates that the Holy Spirit, who imparts every needful gift, accounts further revelation unnecessary. The absence of the gift proves the sufficiency of the Scriptures, and the cessation of the prophetic office.

Gill:

not ordinary ministers of the word, but extraordinary ones, who had a peculiar gift of interpreting the Scriptures, the prophecies of the Old Testament, and of foretelling things to come

Hodge:

[on 1 Cor 12:28] men who spoke for God as the occasional organs of the Spirit

JFB:

the prophets made new revelations and spoke all their prophesyings under the Spirit's influence.

Calvin:

Now as touching the office of Prophets: we have it not so excellent nowadays as it was then, as men see. For God hath abated his gifts, because of the unthankfulness of the world. Not that he sheweth not himself as liberal as is requisite for our salvation; but because that howsoever the world go, we be unworthy to have his treasures so largely poured out, as they had them at the first upspring of the Gospel. Therefore doth he give us but a small portion of them. Howsoever we fare, the prophets served to be as it were expounders of God's will, and had a much higher understanding in the scriptures, than the common Teachers had, whose office was to instruct.

Zechariah 7:11-12 But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear. (12) Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.

CONCLUSION

Revelation 22:1-7 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. (2) In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (3) And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. (4) They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. (5) There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. (6) Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. (7) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

JRY:

He had given the commission for the church to perform; with it He gave the gifts needed to perform it

Dagg:

In Ephesians iv. 11, Paul enumerates the officers whom God set in the church: "Some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists," &c. Of these the first three are not confined to local churches, but are ministers of the church universal. This is apparent, from the words of Paul: "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ, in my flesh, for his body's sake, which is the church, whereof I am made a minister."(16)

Carroll:

The means for securing unity. These are all of divine appointment. If we ask, what? They are all summed up in the one word "gifts." These gifts are men – teaching men.

Apostles, who are inspired.

Prophets, who are inspired.

Evangelists, who labor in the kingdom at large.

Pastors and teachers, whose work is in the particular churches.

For the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ

Bayne (as also Geneva):

some of these ministers are extraordinary and temporary: the three first
some ordinary and perpetual: the two last

Calvin:

[on 1 Cor 12:28]

of the offices which Paul makes mention of, some are perpetual, others temporary. Those that are perpetual, are such as are necessary for the government of the Church; those that are temporary, are such as were appointed at the beginning for the founding of the Church, and the raising up of Christ's kingdom; and these, in a short time afterwards, ceased.

[on Ephesians 4]

We must note here concerning these offices which Paul rehearseth, that some of them served but for a time, as the office of Apostleship. For they were not chosen of purpose to continue to the world's end, but only to publish abroad the doctrines of the Gospel . . . But after that the Gospel was once authorized after that manner, the office of Apostleship ceased.

Geoff Thomas

There have been mighty preachers in the history of the world and often men dub them 'prophets'. A.W.Tozer and Dr Lloyd-Jones have been called 'prophets' as they boldly confronted the world in the name of Jesus Christ with a message from God. May God raise up many more ministers like that, but they were not prophets in the technical sense of the term. Throughout history there have been men who preached with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven. May there be many more – men who were like John the Baptist, burning and a shining lights. You can call such men 'prophets' but they are not like Agabus who brought a prediction from God about famine in the promised land and Jerusalem's hatred of God's servants.

There have been men who have been able to make some unusual accurate predictions about the future, and that is a strange phenomenon. There have been such men in the past in the Highlands and islands of Scotland. It happens, and when the man is also a very pious Christian it is quite striking and memorable, but I don't know what is its connection with godliness, or its connection with these apostles in Acts and the letters. There have also been men who have occasionally spoken a brief word with deep earnestness and authority and that message has been very fitting and helpful. That has happened and it seems to me that it is carping to say, "Don't call that a prophetic word."

That is what it appears to be from many angles, but again the men giving it were not 'the prophets' in the church – like you have 'the deacons' in the church and 'the elders' in the church. They were men who knew God and were given an insight and authority at a certain time with a certain message.

So you have two foundational gifts of apostles and prophets and that is how they are described in Ephesians 2:20, that the church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.

evangelists

G2099 *euaggelistes*

Philip

Acts 21:8 On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.

Church considers him qualified; apostles lay hands on him

Acts 6:3-6 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven **men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom**, whom we may appoint over this business; (4) but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." (5) And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, (6) whom they set before **the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.**

He preaches in Samaria

Acts 8:5-7 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached [kerusso] Christ to them. (6) And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. (7) For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached [**euaggelizo**] the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.

He preaches to the Ethiopian

Acts 8:26 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert.

Acts 8:29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."

Acts 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached **[euaggelizo]** Jesus to him.

He preaches in several cities

Acts 8:39-40 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. (40) But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached **[euaggelizo]** in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.

Observations

Initially judged qualified by the church
Apostles laid hands on him
Preached Jesus Christ
Baptized
Miraculous things accompanied his work

Timothy

2 Timothy 4:5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Church considers him qualified; apostles lay hands on him

Acts 16:1-2 Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. (2) He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.

1 Timothy 4:14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

2 Timothy 1:6 Therefore I remind you to stir up **the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.**

2 Timothy 4:5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Dagg:

Evangelists were persons employed in the spread of the gospel. They appear to have labored in connection with the apostles, to extend the religion of Christ and plant new churches. They did not need miraculous endowments for their work; and therefore their office continues to the present time. Every minister of the word, when he labors, not for the special benefit of a local church, but for the spread of the gospel, is doing the work of an evangelist.(21) Timothy was required to do this, though remaining at Ephesus, and laboring for the interest of that particular church.

Bayne:

ministers that served for publishing of the gospel

two sorts

1. called immediately, as Philip, set on that work by the instinct of the Spirit
2. others, as Timothy, called by the apostles and elders 1 Tim 4:14
 - a. Titus, Mark, Tychicus, Sylvanus
 - b. ministers given of Christ for the helping of the apostles, in that they begun
 - c. differed from the apostles in three things
 - i. the apostles called by Christ himself; these called by the apostles
 - ii. apostles were over all churches; these over some churches, to which the apostles did call them
 - iii. apostles founded churches; these did accomplish the work the apostles begun Titus 1:5

Gill:

the companions of the apostles, and assistants to them, and subserved them in their work; such were Philip, Luke, Titus, Timothy, and others; these were not fixed and stated ministers in any one place, but were sent here and there as the apostles thought fit

Calvin:

they [the apostles] had companions and helpfellowes, who were not of equal degree in commission with them, to sow abroad the seed of the gospel; them doth Paul name

Evangelists or Gospellers. According wherunto, writing to Timothy, he sayeth . . .
Evangelist. Those two offices then served but for that time.

Lloyd-Jones

“If any are surprised that I place the evangelist and his office in the same extraordinary and temporary category as the apostles and prophets, the probability is that they are thinking of an evangelist in terms of the modern use of the term. This is something essentially different from its use in the New Testament, where we are not told much about the evangelists. Philip who is mentioned in the eighth chapter of the Book of the Acts, was an evangelist. He is mentioned again in the twenty-first chapter. It is quite clear also that Timothy and Titus were evangelists. The Apostle Paul reminds Timothy to do the work of an evangelist. It seems clear from these references that an evangelist was a very special man who was in close association with the apostles. Some of the Early Fathers in the church tended to say that the evangelists were those who wrote the Four Gospels; but that cannot be the case in the light of what we are told in the places already mentioned. The evangelist is a man who had been given a special ability and power to make known, and to expound, the facts of the Gospel. Generally he was a man appointed by the apostles themselves, and can be described as a kind of understudy to the apostles. He was one sent by the apostles to do a given work. Sometimes he was sent ahead of the apostles, as Philip was sent to Samaria, but generally he followed the apostles.

“The apostles, prophets and evangelists were itinerant. They travelled around and established churches and laid the foundations of the Christian Church. Frequently, therefore, you will find that the evangelist was left by the apostle to build upon the foundation that had been established, to expound and explain the truth more fully. Or, as I have said, sometimes he was sent ahead of the apostle to prepare the way and to introduce the general message of the Gospel. That was his particular task. He had not seen the risen Lord, he could not witness to the resurrection in that manner. The story of Titus and Timothy proves that beyond any doubt. But he was a man whom the Holy Spirit had led the apostles to choose. He had been given certain abilities; he knew the facts, he knew the truths of the Gospel, and he could present them in a clear manner and with unction and authority and power from the Holy Spirit. He thus supplemented the work of the apostles and extended it and caused it to spread and to become established. Thus the evangelist was a man whose office was temporary, and as the churches were established and became more settled, this office likewise disappeared.

“This does not mean that there may not be men since then, and in the Church today, who are given a special call to preach the Gospel in a particular way and manner, but strictly speaking they are not evangelists in the New Testament sense of the word. It would be better to call them ‘exhorters’, as they were called at the time of the evangelical awakening of the eighteenth century.” (D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, “Christian Unity,” *Banner of Truth*, 1980, pp. 191&192).

pastors and teachers

Gill:

I rather think they intend one and the same office, and that the word “teachers” is only explanative of the figurative word “pastors” or shepherds because if the apostle had designed distinct officers, he would have used the same form of speaking as before; and have expressed himself thus, “and some pastors, and some teachers”; whereas he does not

Geneva:

Pastors are those who govern the Church, and teachers are those who govern the schools.

Hodge:

There is no evidence from Scripture that there was a set of men authorized to teach but not authorized to exhort. The thing is well nigh impossible. The one function includes the other. The man who teaches duty and the grounds of it, does at the same time admonish and exhort. It was however on the ground of this unnatural interpretation that the Westminster Directory made teachers a distinct and permanent class of *jure divino* officers in the church. The Puritans in New England endeavored to reduce the theory to practice, and appointed doctors as distinct from preachers. But the attempt proved to be a failure. The two functions could not be kept separate. The whole theory rested on a false interpretation of Scripture. The absence of the article before διδασκάλους proves that the apostle intended to designate the same persons as at once pastors and teachers.

Calvin:

[on 1 Cor 12:28]

For the Pastor has not a commission to preach the gospel over the whole world, but to take care of the Church that has been committed to his charge.

Poole:

[on mention of “teachers” but not “pastors” in 1 Cor 12:28]

some by these understand governors of schools; others, such ministers whose work was only to expound the Scriptures, or the mysteries of salvation: but the apostle, in this enumeration, (which is the largest we have in Scripture), not mentioning pastors, it seemeth to me that he means the fixed and ordinary ministers of churches, or the elders, whom the apostles left in every city, which by their ministry had received the gospel.

1 Corinthians 12:27-28 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. (28) And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers

Romans 12:6-8 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; (7) or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; (8) he who exhorts, in exhortation;