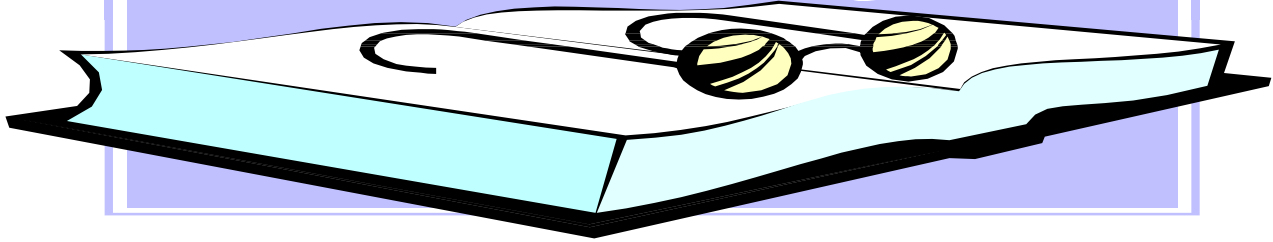


BIBLE

Study



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Topic:
“Edifying the Body of Christ”

BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

Edifying the Body of Christ

Lesson #1: “Equipping the Saints for the Work of Ministry”

Key Verses: Ephesians 4:7-12

PROPOSITION: The Body of Christ is edified as converted Christians use their spiritual gifts and as gifted leaders equip the saints for their works of ministry.

I. Christ ascended on high in order to give the Church the power and spiritual gifts. (7-10)

- A. Christ ascended on high. (Eph. 4: 8-10; John 3:13; 20:17)
 - 1. He was received into heaven. (Mk. 16:19; Acts 1:9-11)
 - 2. He was seated at the right hand of God. (Acts 2:33, 38, 39; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3)
 - 3. He was highly exalted. (Eph. 1:20-23; Phil. 2:9-11)
- B. Christ descended into the lower parts of the earth. (Eph. 4:8-10; Heb. 2:4)
 - 1. He descended in order to destroy him who had power over death, the Devil.
 - 2. He descended in order to release those bound by the fear of death.
 - 3. He descended in order to lead captivity captive.
- C. Christ gave gifts to men. (Eph. 4:7, 8)
 - 1. He gives the gift of the Holy Spirit to saints. (Acts 1:8; 2:33, 38, 39)
 - 2. He gives spiritual gifts to saints. (Rm. 12:6-8; 1 Co. 12:4-11, 28-30; Eph. 4:7-11)

II. Christ gave the Church gifted leaders to equip the saints for the work of ministry. (11, 12)

- A. The Body of Christ is edified through the ministry of gifted leaders. (11)
 - 1. Apostles: those with the gift to plant churches and provide oversight
 - 2. Prophets: those with the gift to speak God’s special message to the church
 - 3. Evangelists: those with the gift to share the gospel and train others to do so
 - 4. Pastors: those with the gift to care for souls and nurture them to maturity
 - 5. Teachers: those with the gift to teach the saints to obey God’s Word
- B. The Body of Christ is edified as gifted leaders equip saints for the work of ministry. (12)
 - 1. They must assist them with their spiritual gifts. (1 Cor. 12:4)
 - a. They must help them discover their spiritual gifts.
 - b. They must help them develop their spiritual gifts.
 - c. They must help them use their spiritual gifts.
 - 2. They must assist them with their ministries. (1 Cor. 12:5)
 - a. They must help them discover their ministries.
 - b. They must help them fulfill their ministries.
 - 3. They must assist them with their operations. (1 Cor. 12:6)
 - a. They must help them discover their operation.
 - b. They must help them function in their operation.

BIBLE STUDY

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Lesson #2: “Nurturing the Saints to Maturity in Christ”

Key Verses: Ephesians 4:13-16

PROPOSITION: The Body of Christ is edified as gifted leaders are faithful in nurturing the saints to maturity in Christ.

I. The Body of Christ is edified as the saints are properly disciplined. (13)

- A. The saints must be brought into the unity of the faith.
- B. The saints must be brought into the knowledge of the Son of God.
- C. The saints must be brought to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

II. The Body of Christ is edified as the saints are nurtured to maturity in Christ. (14)

- A. The saints must be nurtured in order to grow to maturity in Christ.
- B. The saints must be nurtured in order to avoid the pitfalls of immaturity.
 - 1. Spiritual instability
 - 2. Spiritual vulnerability
 - 3. Spiritual gullibility

III. The Body of Christ is edified as the saints show maturity in their communication. (15)

- A. The saints must communicate (speak).
- B. The saints must communicate honestly (speak the truth).
- C. The saints must communicate graciously (speak the truth in love).

IV. The Body of Christ is edified as the saints faithfully do their part. (16)

- A. The Body of Christ is held together by what each joint supplies.
- B. The Body of Christ grows as each part does its share.