

Directional Devo
Letter to the Ephesians
Ephesians 4:11
4/1/16

And He Gave Some

v.11 *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

C.I. Scofield, a favorite of my Reformed friends, said that in 1 Cor. 12:8-28 we see the gifts that are given to men, while here we see that some gifts are men.

1. Apostle

The office of apostle was unique to only 4 men.

These men include the 12 original apostles that were initially called by Jesus, Matthias, and Paul.

Note the qualifications as found in Acts 1:15-22.

Only these 14 men could have met these qualifications.

Paul met these qualifications when he saw the risen Savior on the road to Damascus in Acts 9.

They had three unique ministries that no one can claim to have today.

- a. Laid the foundation of the church.
- b. Received, declared, and wrote God's Word.
- c. Gave confirmation to its church with supernatural signs, wonders, and miracles.

It's also interesting, as John MacArthur points out, that only the 14 were referred to as apostles of Christ, while others such as Barnabas, Silas, and Timothy were also referred to as apostles, but only as apostles of the church.

Most will agree that the office is closed today, but the function is accomplished by church-planting missionaries.

2. Prophet

Unlike apostles, these men were not used for the reception of Scripture, but were uniquely gifted with messages for the early church.

Like the office of apostle, I believe that this office is closed.

However, clearly there is still the gift of prophecy.

Bear in mind that prophecy is not limited to “foretelling”, but also “foretelling”.

Cf. 1 Cor 14:1-5

Again, while the office may be closed, it functions in regards to these men through the pastor, evangelist, and teacher.

3. Evangelist

These men are especially gifted in sharing the Gospel with unbelievers.

4. Pastor

These men primarily oversee the house of God.

1 Pet 5:2 *Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;*

These I believe were referred to by Jesus in John 21:15-17.

5. Teacher

Teachers have the unique ability to interpret and apply the Word of God.

Some will say that the pastor and teacher represent the same office.

However, I have met men with the ability to do both, most lean toward one of the other.

Cf. the hand