

## ***The Blessing of the Church***

May 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

### ***Ephesians 1:16-18***

*“...that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you,  
what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints,”*

#### **We have learned about two dimensions of the riches of our inheritance in the saints:**

1. The Word of God has been given to us and is passed on to our children.
  2. The History of those who have gone before us gives us encouragement to live for Christ in our generation!
- ❖ Another dimension of our inheritance in the church is the spiritual giftings of other believers.

#### **The Church: Unity in Diversity**

📖 *Romans 12:1-8*

The Exhortation by Paul to beware of pride! *Romans 12:3*

The Truth that we are many members but one body! *Romans 12:4*

📖 *Ephesians 4:11-16*

📖 *1 Corinthians 12:4-7,12*

The Command to use the gifts God has given us by His grace! *Romans 12:6*

#### **The Richness of God's Gifts**

Prophecy “The speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God”<sup>1</sup>

- ❖ The purpose of the gift of prophecy is to build up, encourage, comfort and console believers.  
*1 Corinthians 14:3 “On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.”*
- ❖ Prophecy can be futuristic. *Acts 21:10-14*
- ❖ There are false prophets.  
📖 *2 Peter 2:1-3*  
*Matthew 7:15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”*
- ❖ Prophecy is always in agreement with the Scriptures, the Word of God!

#### Service

📖 *1 Peter 4:10-11*

📖 *Matthew 20:26-28*

#### Teaching

*Matthew 28:20 “teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

*Titus 2:1,7-8*

*Acts 20:32 “And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”*

Exhortation “To urge one to pursue some course of conduct.”<sup>1</sup>

Examples of Paul exhorting the saints:

📖 *Colossians 2:6-8*

📖 *1 Timothy 6:11-16*

## Giving “Contribute generously”<sup>1</sup>

❖ All Christians are to tithe. *Malachi 3:10-12*

“For Christians, the tithe should be the beginning of their giving, not the limit of their giving.” - *Crown Ministries*

❖ Tithing is another key to enjoying our inheritance in Christ!

❖ Some have the gift of giving.

📖 *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

## Leadership

Zeal: “Passionate pursuit – eagerness of desire to accomplish.”<sup>2</sup>

Leader: “The one standing in front.”<sup>3</sup>

📖 *Hebrews 13:7-8, 17-18*

“Leadership is not a right but a responsibility!”<sup>4</sup>

“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way. Leadership is influence.”<sup>4</sup>

*1 Corinthians 11:1 “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”*

## Acts of Mercy

❖ Done with cheerfulness!

❖ Mercy is having a compassionate and tender disposition toward a person in distress.

Mercy: “That benevolence, mildness or tenderness of heart which disposes a person to overlook injuries, or to treat an offender better than he deserves...”<sup>2</sup>

*Luke 6:35-36 “But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”*

*Romans 12:6 “Having gifts that differ, let us use them...”*

Oh, that we may realize the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints!

Thank you, Lord, for the blessing of your church!

## Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Vine, W.E. *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

<sup>2</sup> Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

<sup>3</sup> Robertson, A.T. *Word pictures in the New Testament*. Nashville: Holman Reference, 2000.

<sup>4</sup> Maxwell, John C. *Leadership 101*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2002. Print.

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