

**SERMON OUTLINE - 080121 - 10<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost**  
**“Why the Gifts?”**  
**Ephesians 4:1-16**

**Intro** - A noticeably new direction in Paul’s Ephesians letter begins at 4:1. Up till now Paul has written about Jesus being the One Head of the church who unites all things under Him through His sacrificial love and rule. Paul relates how God has even used him, Paul, to accomplish His “mystery-plan” of unity in His Son. Yet God’s plan needed down-to-earth application for the churches He had founded through Paul. In 4:1 Paul begins a section on daily communal living as Christians in Greco-Roman society. Our opening verses refer to the “gifts” God has given His church to facilitate the church’s understanding of Christian living.

- I. What “gifts” have been given?
  - A. People as gifts.
  - B. Gifts that proclaim and teach the Word.
  - C. The full gift. . . the Word of God.
  - D. Would we know anything without the Word?
- II. Gifts given “to prepare, to equip” us.
  - A. Picture-idea for “prepare”- *katartizmos* - Mk 1:19.
  - B. “To prepare” us for “service.”
- III. How the Word enables us to serve others.
  - A. Hearing the Word of love.
  - B. Visualizing the Word of love.
  - C. The heart and mind absorbing and appropriating God’s love in Jesus.
  - D. Redirecting God’s love into sacrificial servanthood for others.
- IV. I Thess. 2:13—“God’s Word which is at work in you believers.”
  - A. The gift(s) that keep(s) on giving!
  - B. And your heartfelt service to others?
    1. “. . . a life worthy of the calling. . .”
    2. Actions of humility.
  - C. One more definition of “Love one another as I have loved you (John 13:34&35).”