

Equipped For Purpose Ephesians 4:1-17

God Gave Patterns

Considered in earlier lesson

Also gave skills to follow pattern - Think - craftsmen listed to build tabernacle and furnishing

See purpose in how equipped

What equipment given for Church? Can we see purpose in equipping? - **1Timothy 3:14-16; 1Peter 2:9**

Teachers - Apostles & Prophets

Inspired Spokesmen - Must receive Truth to uphold it

Peter & John - **Acts 4:18-20**; Paul - **1Corinthians 11:23-24**

Stephen - **Acts 6:8-10**; Philip - **Acts 8:4-8**; In Antioch - **Acts 13:1**

General for all mankind - Their work has been preserved - **2Peter 1:12-15; Ephesians 3:4**

As their purpose to reveal the Gospel (Truth) was completed they began to transition to evangelists

Evangelists

Proclaimers of the Gospel - Continue in the spread of Truth

Philip - **Acts 21:8** - Shifted to evangelist over time, seems to have become local rather than traveling

Timothy - **2Timothy 4:2-5** - Both traveling and local in his focus as need arose

Still present today - Not necessarily local

Shepherds & Teachers

Focused on Local knowledge of Truth

Elders - Sphere is local - **Acts 20:28; 1Peter 5:1-3**

The Purpose

All point toward purpose to spread the Gospel - **Acts 13:1-3; 2Corinthians 11:8-9; Ephesians 4:12-14**

Begins with strengthen selves

"to equip the saints"

Teachers in any category were to prepare saints for the work they must do.

"work of ministry"

Many consider this to reference benevolent work, context here points more to teaching

Both are works of service, but Paul seems to be focused on instruction rather than benevolence

"build up the body of Christ"

To promote growth; To bring unity in faith and knowledge; To bring us to maturity as Christians

"stature of the fullness of Christ"

Able to overcome distractions and pressures that would take us away from Christ

Equipped With Instructors

God has equipped us as a local congregation to complete the building of a properly functioning body that will continue to grow.

One noticeable area of skill which we do not have in this congregation - Shepherds.

Since it is one of the 'skills' God gave so that we could be equipped for the work, we need to consider it as needed, not just an option

Plenty of builders and makers in Israel yet God called Bezalel & Oholiab to lead the work, for He had given them the skills needed. - **Exodus 31:1-6**

Since God has given shepherds for the work shepherds are needed to accomplish His work according to His pattern

Following The Pattern

Are we using the skills God has given for His purpose?

What could we do to better use what God has provided?

Can Godly growth come if we do not use the skills he has equipped us with?