

principalities and powers and made a show of them, openly triumphing over them in his cross. He led in chains those who had held others in terrible bondage, Satan and his legions; and their victims redeemed by blood, and subdued by grace, and made gloriously free, follow joyfully their Deliverer.

'He received gifts, he gave gifts.' He received that he might give. He received with one hand and gave with the other. The Conqueror distributes the spoil which he takes. He receives to give, and therefore in a description of the celestial victor, the receiving and dispensing are varying phases of the same transaction.

### III. INVENTORY OF ROYAL GIFTS.

He himself, the unspeakable Gift of love, includes all others—Grace, Holiness, Heirship, all that is needful for the highest welfare of man for time and eternity. Here the gifts referred to are those dispensed to the Church as a Society or Body. What these gifts were and are, for they are still flowing into the bosom of the Church in perfect adaptation to her need, is there distinctly stated, and verse 11 contains the enumeration. These are first Apostles, the men as well as the offices, 2nd, Prophets, 3rd, Evangelists, and 4th, Pastors and Teachers.

Of these, the first two are admitted for the most part to be extraordinary, their qualifications being adapted to the founding of the Church, which is built upon the foundation of the 'Apostles and Prophets.'

### EVANGELISTS.

The other two seem to be fitted for the Church of all times and all nations. The Evangelists were auxiliaries to the Apostles, passing from place to place with the wondrous story of salvation and the cross, itinerant preachers, pushing their way hither and thither, where the Church was not organized, or into the Society of those who went not to its meetings, and pressing Christ on the acceptance of all. Though not possessed of the high and exceptional qualifications of Apostles, or even of the Prophets, yet they had the advantage of being unhindered in the work by matters of de-

tail connected with organization and discipline. Leaving for others to examine how far the Church is acting wisely or unwisely, how far she is innocent or culpable, in using this agency to such a limited extent, I turn to

### IV. PASTORS AND TEACHERS.

Authorities differ as to whether we have here two classes of office-bearers, or the two leading characteristics of one class. Without formal proof I shall assume that we have here but one office. I say *formal proof*, for the construction is the best of all proof, for we can take no other view, except by a violation or contempt of the plainest rules of grammatical construction.

He is at once Pastor and Teacher, Shepherd and Doctor—Shepherd, the prominent idea being Guide or Ruler, implying careful, watchful, tender superintendence or government, yet not to the neglect of feeding. The Pastor must guide and oversee the flock, and must see that they are fed with wholesome, suitable, nutritious food. Thus providing supplying and distributing the food of the word, he is a Teacher, an expounder, drawing forth the truth, and from that storehouse giving to all their food in due season and proportion. Even should teaching be his main employment yet his work is truly a *Pastorate*. The two main functions may be distinguished, but cannot well be separated.

The present assembly of office-bearers consists of this class, some having special qualifications for teaching, others set apart mainly for guiding, advising, and governing, but all being pastors and teachers like the elders of Ephesus addressed by Paul on the shores of the Ægean Sea, like the overseers of Philippi, and the Elders ordained by Paul and Barnabas in every city, and in every church.

### THE PASTOR'S WORK.

IV. We have next set forth the *work of the Pastor*, the one common object of all the Gifts. Vv. 12. They were all given, the office of pastor and teacher so long as it exists, and wherever it is found, was given for the perfecting of the Saints 'for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.'