

"A PLAN ETCHED IN CONCRETE"

EPHESIANS 4:13-16

(Part 1)

It's God's full-proof plan: pastors equipping the saints for the ministry, saints engaging in the work of the ministry, and the church edified and built up. It's church growth God's way.

PARTICULARS IN THE GROWTH PROCESS

① The T _____ (4:13)

Before we first count _____, we should be measuring _____.

Four measurements of that mark:

① fully _____ → "unity of the faith"

② fully _____ → "knowledge of ..."

③ fully _____ → "to a perfect man"

1) love your enemies (Mt. 5:43-48); 2) evidence patience in the midst of suffering/testing (Jms. 1:2-4); 3) not just know the Word of God but also do the Word of God (Jms. 1:25); 4) bridle the tongue (Jms. 3:2); 5) not live life fearful and fretful (1 Jn. 4:18); 6) take control of your thought life and live sober-minded (1 Pt. 1:13); 7) know and practice the will of God in your life (Col. 4:12); 8) know and decide between good/evil and better/best (Heb. 5:14); 9) evidence works in your life which attest that you are a Christian (Jms. 2:22); 10) not depend upon your own fleshly resources and understanding but walk/depend on the Spirit (Gal. 5:16).

④ fully f _____ → "to the measure of"

② The T _____ (4:14)

The consequences of this fallout:

① d _____ → "tossed to and fro"

② d _____ → "carried about with"

③ d _____ → "by the trickery of men"

* *trickery* = English word *cube* (a loaded one)

④ d _____ → "in the cunning craftiness"

CONCLUSION

As clergy are equipping and the congregation is engaging, God provides the target (4:13), the bull's eye, to which every believer must focus his attention as he lives the Christian life. However, failure to aim for that target or constantly failing to reach that target will pose a very real threat (4:14) to the body of Christ.

May the church of Jesus Christ of present-day saints grow in the Word of God and thus not waiver in her biblical convictions with the passage of time. May we faithfully and fully run the race which the Lord has set before us. He who is faithful has called you. Surrendered and submitted to Him, you can and will endure.