

The way to become mature, attaining to the fullness of Christ

June 2024 (#1)

* Praise with joy : Hymn 93 'Jesus is all the world to me', Jesus is my strength by Kim Do Hyun

* Bible verse : Ephesians 4 : 13-16

* Focusing on Words : Becoming a Christian means to become mature in Christ. Becoming a healthy church means that each member of the church becomes mature by the Words of gospel in Christ. Just as a child physically grows to be an adolescent and adult finally, as a child must grow spiritually as well to be an adolescent and adult at last.

* Understanding the background : Ephesian church was still at the stage of a child. There were conflicts between Jews and Gentiles and no signs of solution in the church. Therefore Paul strongly encourages them to grow because Christian community has to be different from the world.

* Sharing the Words

1. #. Observing & Contemplating : Read Ephesians 4 : 13

1) 3 targets Christians must attain are discussed in verse 13. What are they? (verse 13)

- reaching unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God

- Becoming mature

- Attaining to the whole measure of the fulness of Christ

2) 2 methods in order to attain 3 Christians' targets are mentioned. What are they? (verse 15)

- We must follow the truth.

- We must speak the truth in love.

: Paul used the word, 'instead' denouncing all the chaos described above in verse 14. There is no royal road or short cut for Christians to reach maturity. We can only grow day by day by eating, contemplating and keeping in mind God's Words. Paul encourages us to speak the truth in love. The truth is only Jesus Christ. The gospel delivered by Jesus Christ, the truth must be spoken and followed. All these executions must be carried out in the name of love. All the actions and services we do will mean nothing without love.

3) What are the reasons we must grow without staying at the stage of infants? (verse 14)

- not to remain as a spiritual infant

- not to be tossed back and forth by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming

- not to be blown here and there by every wind of teaching

: The churches in Galatia (Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe) that Paul had delivered gospel to followed false gospel abandoning the truth influenced by the false teachers. Paul scolded those churches and urged them to come back to the truth through the letter of Galatians and revisited them. Because spiritual infants can be easily tossed back and forth by the cunning and craftiness of heresy and pseudo in their deceitful scheming.

#. Applying & Sharing

1) Among the targets for the growth for the church, body of Christ and the believers, which target can you aim at the best in your case? Which target can you aim at the least? What is your resolution to improve aiming at the difficult target?

: Let's be truly happy and encourage each other for the targets that you can aim at well. Pray for the targets that you have difficulty with to aim at.

2) The phrase, 'becoming mature, attaining to the fullness of Christ' means that you take after Christ. What factor do you take after Christ the most after you received Jesus Christ as your savior?

: You may share factors that you earnestly want to take after Christ.

* Conclusion : We must become mature, attaining to the fullness of Christ. That means you take after Jesus Christ day after day. Let's hope every believer will become little Jesus through reading, contemplating, researching and learning the Words of God.

* Prayers to reflect on the Words

1. Let us grow in the Words of Jesus Christ and all the factors of my life take after Jesus.
2. Let the Inland church be a healthy church. Let all the pastors and members of our church reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the son of God and be intact.
3. Please have mercy on ill members of the church. Let them be strong in the faith and the grace of God's healing be with them.