

## ***The Surety of Maturity***

January 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016

### ***Ephesians 4:13***

*“until we all attain ... to mature manhood...”*

The first three chapters of Ephesians has shown us who we are in Christ and all that we have in Christ! God has seen to it that we are not lacking in anything needed to fulfill God’s purpose for our lives! Chapter four directs us to conduct our lives in a manner worthy of our God-given call! The process through which we grow in our understanding of God’s call and purpose for our lives is through discipleship – God-gifted teachers and mentors training and equipping each Christian as we grow in unity of the faith, the knowledge of the Son of God, and maturity in Christ!

### **What does maturity in the Lord look like?**

**One of the characteristics of maturity is a new focus in our thinking *Philippians 3:12-16***

#### **Humility in Attitude** *“Not that I have already attained this...”*

*Psalm 25:8-9 “Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way.”*

*James 4:6 “But He gives more grace. Therefore it says, ‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’”*

❖ Humility is not listed among the fruits of the Spirit. (*Galatians 5:22-23*)

❖ Humility is something we choose to do!

*“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you,” 1 Peter 5:6*

#### **Diligence in Effort** *“...but I press on to make it my own, ...”*

*Proverbs 21:5 “The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, ...”*

*2 Peter 1:10-11 “Be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*

*“While God’s choice of the elect is firm and certain in God (2 Tim. 2:19), it may not always be obvious to the individual Christian. Assurance of God’s call comes through the evidence of the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives (1 John 3:10, 14) ...”<sup>1</sup>*

#### **Understanding of Relationship** *“... because Christ has made me His own.”*

*Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”*

*1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”*

*John 15:16 “You did not choose me, but I chose you...”*

#### **Priorities in Choices** *“... But one thing I do...”*

*1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”*

*1 Corinthians 6:12 “‘All things are lawful for me,’ but not all things are helpful. ‘All things are lawful for me,’ but I will not be enslaved by anything.”*

**Receiving and Giving Forgiveness** “... forgetting what lies behind ...”

📖 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Colossians 3:13 “... as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”

**Maintaining Attention to our Goal and Reward** “I press on toward the goal for the prize...”

Hebrews 12:2 “Looking to Jesus, ... who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, ...”

📖 1 Peter 1:3-9 “... He has caused us to be born again ... to an inheritance”

📖 James 1:2-5 “... that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

Philippians 3:15 “Let those who are mature think this way, ...”

“And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6

**The Surety of Maturity!**

Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando: Ligonier Ministries, 2005.

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