

The Purpose and Plan for the Church Pt. 13 Ephesians 4:11-16

Introduction:

Five-Star General Omar Bradley died April 8, 1981. In August 1944, General Omar Bradley led the 12th Army Group in France and Germany, consisting of a million men in four armies.

President Johnson addressed him, May 23, 1964: "General Bradley, you were the field commander of more American fighting troops than any commander in any era."

General Omar Bradley was chief of staff of the U.S. Army, 1948-49, and first chairman of the joint chiefs of staff in 1950. President Gerald Ford remarked upon presenting Omar Bradley with the presidential Medal of Freedom, Jan. 10, 1977: "Military hero, courageous in battle, and gentle in spirit, friend of the common soldier, General of the Army, first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he embodies the best of the American military tradition with dignity, humanity, and honor."

General Omar Bradley stated in an Armistice Day speech, Nov. 10, 1948 (published in "Omar Bradley's Collected Writings," Volume 1, 1967): "To ignore the danger of

aggression is simply to invite it. ... We shall doom our children to a struggle that may take their lives ...

We know that unless free peoples stand boldly and united against the forces of aggression, they may fall wretchedly, one by one, into the web of oppression.”

General Omar Bradley stated: “We have men of science, too few men of God. We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount. The world has achieved brilliance without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. ... If we continue to develop our technology without wisdom or prudence, our servant may prove to be our executioner.”

Read more at <http://mobile.wnd.com/2017/04/to-ignore-the-danger-of-aggression-is-simply-to-invite-it/#pzFEzJBtrD7jMYlx.99>

Great words on the present condition we find ourselves in this nation.

but greater still is the condition the church finds it self
We have never faced more darker days and more difficult paths to walk than now in the Church.

Through out church history the church has always faced the attacks of the devil with its false doctrine.

1. Arianism
2. Docetism
3. Luciferians
4. Monarchianism
5. Sabelliansim
6. Antinomianism
7. Pelagiansims
8. Catholicism
9. Modernism

But even the great Battle for the truth that occurred in the Reformation, When great men of God, moved by the truth of God, reached deep into the dark pits of false religion and pulled the truth out, to the salvation of millions.

It does not compare to the huge barrage of false teaching that is in the church today.

Never has there been a time that the church has faced more false doctrine all at one time.

It comes from without, but most comes from within.

The church faces its most fierce and crucial battle NOW and at the same time, many of its officers have gone AWOL

The battle cry of the enemies are

1. Tolerance
2. Peace
3. Unity
4. Love
5. acceptance
6. Relevant
7. community

They cry for these until you make claim that what they teach is false and then there is no tolerance for you!!!!

I would re-quote what the General said but with a couple of word changes for the church

“To ignore the danger of false teaching is simply to invite it. ... We shall doom our children to a struggle that may take their souls ...

Apart from the gospel itself, there is not anything any clearer that the warning to the church about False Doctrine.

NOTHING is more dangerous than departures from the truth. NOTHING can be more devastating to the faithfulness and fruitfulness of a ministry than false teaching.

No attack on the church from any corrupt government in the world can compare to the destruction that error can do.

They may take our buildings but if we have the truth we will thrive

They may take out freedom but if we have the gospel we will survive

They may take our possessions but if we have sound doctrine with will prosper

But if the truth is destroyed We die.

The Bible Constantly warns of the treat of false doctrine.

1 Ti 4:1–2

4 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ²

Mt 24:5

5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

2 Th 2:3

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

2 Ti 3:1

3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

2 Ti 4:3–5

- 3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;
- 4** and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.
- 5** But you be watchful in all things,

2 Th 2:9–10

- 9** The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,
- 10** and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2 Ti 3:13–14

13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,

2 Pe 2:1

2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction.

Re 13:14

14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth—by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast,

2 Pe 3:3–4

3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming?”

2 Ti 4:3

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

Ac 20:29–31

29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

31 Therefore watch

Mt 7:15

15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

There is no greater threat to the church.

Lenski, the New Testament commentator writes, “The worst forms of wickedness consist of perversions of the truth, spiritual lies.”

The Devil is hard at work, and the church has handed him the gas, and the matches to burn the church to the ground.

False religions are growing, faster than Christianity. I was at a Catholic church this week, this church is building a new building so they can seat 600. and have plans for a new building after that for 1000. Islam is clearly the fastest growing religion in the world .

So how do we handle this treat. How do we deal with the incessant attack on the doctrine of the church.

1st The PROBLEM

Mt 16:1–3

16:1 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven.

- 2 He answered and said to them, “When it is evening you say, ‘*It will be fair weather, for the sky is red*’;
- 3 and in the morning, ‘*It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.*’ Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot *discern* the signs of the times.

2 Co 11:1–4

- 11:1** Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me.
- 2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you* as a chaste virgin to Christ.
 - 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
 - 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

NO Discernment

The NEEDED Recognition

2 Co 10:3–5

- 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.
- 4 For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,
- 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

1 Th 5:19–23

- 19 Do not quench the Spirit.
- 20 Do not despise prophecies.
- 21 **Test** all things; hold fast what is good.
- 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

TEST

dokimazo: I put to the test, prove, examine

Original Word: δοκιμάζω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: dokimazo

Phonetic Spelling: (dok-im-ad'-zo)

Short Definition: I put to the test, prove, examine

Definition: I put to the test, prove, examine; I distinguish by testing, approve after testing; I am fit.

HELPS Word-studies

Cognate: 1381 *dokimázō* (from 1384 /*dókimos*, "approved") – properly, to try (test) to *show something is acceptable* (real, approved); *put to the test* to reveal what is good (*genuine*). See 1384 (*dokimos*).

Hold fast

katechó: to hold fast, hold back

Original Word: κατέχω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: katechó

Phonetic Spelling: (kat-ekh'-o)

Short Definition: I hold fast, bind, restrain

Definition: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

Good

kalos: beautiful, good

Original Word: καλός, ἡ, ὄν

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: kalos

Phonetic Spelling: (kal-os')

Short Definition: beautiful, good, worthy

Definition: beautiful, as an outward sign of the inward good, noble, honorable character; good, worthy, honorable, noble, and seen to be so.

HELPS Word-studies

2570 kalós – *attractively good; good that inspires (motivates) others to embrace what is lovely (beautiful, praiseworthy); i.e. well done so as to be winsome (appealing).*

Abstain

apechó: to hold back, keep off, to be away, be distant

Original Word: ἀπέχω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: apechó

Phonetic Spelling: (ap-ekh'-o)

Short Definition: I have in full, am far, it is enough

Definition: I have in full, am far, it is enough.

HELPS Word-studies

568 apéxō (from **575** /apó, "away from" and **2192** /éxō, "have") – properly, to have one thing by separating from (letting go of) another.

[568](#) /apéxō ("to have by separating from") includes what is gained by discarding something else (cf. Phm15). In each case, [568](#) /apéxō ("relate from") retains its root-meaning, "to have something, because far away from something else" (J. Thayer).

[[568/apexō](#) ("have from") has two foci: *away from* (the source); to then *have* what is separated from that source.]

Form

eidōs: visible form, shape, appearance, kind

Original Word: εἶδος, οὐς, τό

Part of Speech: Noun, Neuter

Transliteration: eidōs

Phonetic Spelling: (i'-dos)

Definition: visible form, shape, appearance, outward show, kind, species, class.

1491 *eídōs* (a neuter noun derived from [1492](#) /eídō, "to see, apprehend") – properly, the *sight* (i.e. of something *exposed, observable*), especially its *outward* appearance or *shape* (J. Thayer). [1491](#) (*eídōs*) emphasizes "what *is physically seen*" (*BAGD*) before mentally or spiritually apprehended. See [1492](#) (*eidō, oida*).

Evil

ponéros: toilsome, bad

Original Word: πονηρός, ά, όν

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: ponéros

Phonetic Spelling: (pon-ay-ros')

Definition: evil, bad, wicked, malicious, slothful.

4190 *ponēros* (an adjective which is also used substantively, derived from [4192](#) /pónos, "pain, laborious trouble") – properly, *pain-ridden*, emphasizing the inevitable agonies (misery) that always go with *evil*.

So how do I become a discerning person.

Review

- I. Christ is Lord of His Church**
- II. Christ Builds His Church**
- III. Christ Plans His Church**
- IV. Christ Gives Purpose to His Church**

Lesson:

I. Christ is Lord of His Church

II. Christ Builds His Church

III. Christ Plans His Church

- A. Separated**
- B. Saved**
- C. Steadfast**
- D. Teaching**
- E. Fellowshiping**
- F. Celebrating Lords supper/ baptism**
- G. Praying**
- H. Giving**
- I. Praising**
- J. Fearing**

IV. Christ Gives Purpose to His Church

- A. Edification**
- B. Evangelism**

A. Edification

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Eph 4:11–16

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). (). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

- I. The Preachers**
- II. The Perfecting**
- III. The Purpose**
- IV. The Protection**
- V. The Participation**

I. The Preachers

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

II. The Perfecting

¹² to equip the saints

III. The Purpose

a. Ministry

¹² for the work of ministry,

b. Maturity

for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Building up of the body of Christ - Note that Paul does not say for the increasing of the number of attendees on a given Sunday! The critical issue in view here is not quantity of

saints, but quality of saints, saints equipped for the work of edifying so that they can then be engaged in edification of other saints! Does this describe the philosophy and practice of your local church? It should because it's God's pattern for real "church growth"! The body is built up externally through evangelism as more believers are added, but the emphasis in this verse is on its being built up internally as all believers are nurtured to fruitful service through the Word.

Gifted people are to minister the Word to others so that they in turn are readied to get involved in ministering to others. This same pattern is seen in 2 Timothy where in his last letter Paul exhorts young Timothy...

And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. (see [note 2 Timothy 2:2](#)) (**Comment:** equip faithful men who will be able to equip others also! This has always been God's pattern for disciple making.)

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Amplified: [That it might develop] until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the [full and accurate] knowledge of the Son of God, that [we might arrive] at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection), the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ and the completeness found in Him. ([Amplified Bible - Lockman](#))

ntil (3360) (mechri) is an adverb marking a terminus both of place and time. Here mechri is used to introduce the **goals** of the equipping. **We All (pas = all without exception)** invokes a collective thought and indicates that Christian growth or progress does not occur in isolation. God's people collectively are envisioned as en route to this vital destination. It is not a goal to be attained by a select few "elite" Christians, but by all believers, which is will reach its consummation at the return of Christ, at which time the entire church arrives at complete maturity, otherwise known as glorification.

Attain (2658) (katantao) from **katá** = intensifies meaning + **antáo** = meet) means to happen to, with the implication of something definitive and final coming upon one. Katantao is used figuratively in this verse and means to arrive at a particular state, with the focus on the end point. One gets a sense of the meaning of **katantao** observing the repeated use in the book of Acts to describe travelers arriving at their destination. In this verse **katantao** conveys the thought of believers arriving at their "destinations" of "unity of the faith" and full knowledge of Christ, and ultimately mature man.

To the unity of the faith - oneness is reached when one body of doctrinal truth ("**the faith**") is adhered to, and is lived out in the body by grace through faith (believing).

Ray Stedman explains that...

The **unity of the faith** is the shared understanding, in the church, of the great truths revealed in the Scriptures. Though the Scriptures are unchanging, new light is continually issuing forth from them through individual prophets and teachers who are given these new insights by the Holy Spirit. But then they must be shared widely in the body or no new truth is given. New Christians grow when they exert themselves to understand the Scriptures with the help of the teachers and leaders who make themselves available to them within the body of Christ. No growth toward wholeness and perfection can occur without this

increase in the unity of the faith through the understanding of Christian doctrine. (**Body Life** - chapter entitled The Goal is Maturity)

John MacArthur makes an excellent point that...

The ultimate spiritual target for the church begins with the unity of the faith (cf. v. 3). As in verse 5, faith does not here refer to the act of belief or of obedience but to the body of Christian truth, to Christian doctrine. The faith is the content of the gospel in its most complete form. As the church at Corinth so clearly illustrates, disunity in the church comes from doctrinal ignorance and spiritual immaturity. When believers are properly taught, when they faithfully do the work of service, and when the body is thereby built up in spiritual maturity, unity of the faith is an inevitable result. Oneness in fellowship is impossible unless it is built on the foundation of commonly believed truth. The solution to the divisions in Corinth was for everyone to hold the same understandings and opinions and to speak the same truths (1 Cor. 1:10). (**MacArthur, J: Ephesians. Chicago: Moody Press**)

Unity (1775) (**henotes** from **heís** = one + genitive of **henós** = of one) describes a oneness or unanimity. This oneness and harmony among believers is possible only when it is built on the firm foundation of sound doctrine. The only other use of **henotes** is **Ep 4:3**.

The faith (4101) (**pistis [word study]**) subjectively refers to one's trust or belief and thus their conviction of the truth of anything (i.e., everyone lives on faith, e.g., that the red light works to stop the oncoming car, that the plane will lift off, etc). However in this context the phrase "**the faith**" (the definite article "the" indicating not just any belief system but a very specific belief) refers to the content of what is believed. It is the body of revealed truth that constitutes Christian teaching, particularly featuring the complete content of the gospel. Approximately **one-half** of the 38 occurrences of the specific phrase "**the faith**" refer not to the **ACT** of believing but rather to **WHAT** is believed, the latter being the usage that the present context calls for. It follows that the specific meaning of this phrase is dependent on the **context** (the text that goes with the text in question). See the study on this phrase **the faith**".

AND OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD: kai tes epignoseos tou huiou tou theou:

Knowledge of the Son of God - this is not a reference to the knowledge of Christ by which we were first saved but refers to a deeper, more intimate and experiential knowledge. This refers to a growing encounter with the Lord Jesus Himself, so that we come to know Him more and more--not just know about Him, but know Him, directly and personally. That is a glorious component of a maturing faith. Don't become discouraged for this growing in the deeper knowledge of the Son of God is a lifelong process that will not be complete until we see our Lord face to face. Keep pressing on!

Knowledge (1922) (epignosis [word study] from **epí** = upon + **ginosko** = to know) is a strengthened form of **gnosis (1108)** and conveys the thought of a more full, larger and thorough knowledge.

Epígnosis also conveys the idea of an intimate and personal relationship.

Vine says the related verb **epiginosko** suggests in general a directed or more special, recognition of the object known than does the simple verb **ginosko**. In fairness it should be stated that there are a few resources that suggest there is very little difference between **gnósis** and **epignosis**. This discussion holds the opinion that **epignosis** does have subtle but real differences.

Mature (5046) (teleios [word study] from **telos** = an end, a purpose, an aim, a goal) means complete, mature, fully developed, full grown, brought to its end, finished, wanting nothing necessary to completeness, in good working order.

Teleios signifies consummate soundness, includes the idea of being whole. Interestingly the Gnostics used **teleios** of the one fully initiated into their mysteries and that may have been why Paul used **teleios** in this epistle.

Richards explains **teleios** (and related words in this group such as teleioo, teleiotes) writing that the emphasis is on...

"wholeness and completeness. In the biological sense they mean "mature," or "full grown": the person, animal, or plant achieved the potential inherent in its nature. The perfect is the thing or person that is complete, in which nothing that belongs to its essence has been left out. It is perfect because every potential it possesses has been realized." ([Richards, L O: Expository Dictionary of Bible Words: Regency](#))

As Paul explained to the saints at Colossae, his heartbeat in discipleship was to see believers continually growing in maturity... And we proclaim Him (Christ in believers the hope or certainty of their future glorification - note that "*Him*" is the first word in Greek sentence for emphasis = "*Him we proclaim...*"), admonishing (placing in one's mind = cautioning, gently reproving) **every man** and teaching **every man** with all wisdom, that we may present **every man** complete in Christ. And for this purpose also I labor (constantly toiling to the point of being weary, worn out, exhausted, even faint), striving ([agonizomai](#) - continually contending, fighting, wrestling, straining every nerve to the uttermost to reach the goal) according to His power, which mightily works within me. (See [notes Colossians 1:28; 1:29](#))

TO THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE WHICH BELONGS TO THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST: eis metron hlikias tou pleromatos tou Christou: ([Ep 1:23](#))

To the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ - In a word this is Christlikeness or conformity to the image of Christ.

As Paul explained to the saints at Rome, God has... predestined (every believer) to become conformed to the image of His Son ([Ro 8:29-note](#))

Comment: Howard Hendricks once said that "The Bible was not written to satisfy your curiosity, but to make you conform to Christ's

image. Not to make you a smarter sinner, but to make you like the Saviour. Not to fill your head with a collection of biblical facts, but to transform your life.”

On a wall near the main entrance to the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, is a portrait with the following inscription:

James Butler Bonham—no picture of him exists. This portrait is of his nephew, Major James Bonham, deceased, who greatly resembled his uncle. It is placed here by the family that people may know the appearance of the man who died for freedom.

No literal portrait of Jesus exists either. But the likeness of the Son Who makes us free can and should be seen in the lives of His true followers who are being equipped and built up by sound doctrine expounded by Spirit filled pastor-teachers. The church in the world is the body of Jesus Christ in the world, for as Paul explained earlier... And the church is his body; it is filled by Christ, who fills everything everywhere with his presence. (NLT, see [note Ephesians 1:23](#))

J Vernon McGee in a pithy statement said on his radio broadcast one day "I am going to talk to you very frankly. Don't expect your pastor to do it all. He is there to train you that you might do the work of the ministry and that the church might become mature. We are not to act like a bunch of nitwits today. We are to give a good, clear-cut, intelligent witness to the world. I think the greatest sin in the local church today is the ignorance of the man sitting in the pew; he doesn't know the Word of God, and that is a tragedy. I would hate to get into an airplane if the pilot didn't know any more about flying than the average church member knows about Christianity and the Word of God. The plane wouldn't make it —I think it would crash before it got ten feet into the air. That is the condition of the church today. All believers need to be trained in the Word of God so they can do the work of the

ministry. (McGee, J V: Thru the Bible Commentary: Thomas Nelson)

IV. The Protection

¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

As a result (2443) (**hina**) defines the purpose of attaining to the Christlikeness. Here the purpose of the maturity discussed in the previous verse is emphasized by presentation of the contrasting picture of an immature, indecisive child who is spiritually unstable, easily tricked in spiritual matters and easily led astray from the truth. Always pause to ponder **terms of purpose or result**.

No longer (3371) (**meketi** from **me** = not + **éti** = anymore, yet, with **k** (kappa) inserted for phonics) means no more, no further. The word **no-longer** implies that it was actual and frequent among the Christians of Paul's day. Spiritually immature believers who are not grounded in the knowledge of Christ through God's Word are inclined to uncritically accept every sort of beguiling doctrinal error and fallacious interpretation of Scripture promulgated by deceitful, false teachers in the church. They must learn discernment.

Mature believers are commanded to...

examine (present imperative - **dokimazo** conveys idea of proving a thing whether it is worthy or not, whether genuine or not) everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good. **Abstain** (present imperative) every form of evil. (1Thes 5:21, 22-note)

Children (3516) (**nepios** from negative **nê** + **epos** = not able to talk) means literally not speaking and so a helpless infant. Figuratively as in this verse **nepios** refers to one who is unlearned, unenlightened or simple. Paul is referring to the spiritual immaturity of a child as opposed to the relative perfection of a man of full stature in Christ.

Have you ever noticed how children are often unaware of danger? They may play in dangerous situations and be totally unaware that anything is threatening them.

Tossed by waves (2831) (**kludonizomai** from **kludôn** = wave, especially dashing or surging waves, [Lk 8:24](#)) means to surge, be tossed in billows or the waves. Metaphorically, it means to be agitated mentally like the waves in a stormy sea. To be disturbed. To be thrown in confusion. It describes one of unstable opinion who fluctuates or frequently changes the way he or she thinks or believes depending on the latest fad teaching. Picture a small sail boat being blown in one direction and then another by the wind that keeps changing direction. **Expositor's Greek NT** - In the changefulness and agitation which were the results of their unthinking submission to false teaching their childishness or lack of Christian manhood (maturity) was seen. There is one NT use of **kludonizomai** and one use in the [Septuagint \(LXX\)](#)...

[Isaiah 57:20](#) But the wicked are like the **tossing sea** (kludonizomai), for it cannot be quiet, And its waters toss up refuse and mud.

McGee - Notice that Paul does some mixing of metaphors here. He is trying to bring out vividly the danger of a believer continuing as a babe. You wouldn't, for example, put a baby in a plane to pilot it. My little grandson is a smart boy, but he is not that smart. I wouldn't allow him up there; he would crash. If children were in command of a ship, they would be tossed up and down, driven here and there without direction over the vast expanse of sea. They would become discouraged and seasick. They would lose their way. This is a frightful picture of the possible fate of a child of God. ([McGee, J V: Thru the Bible Commentary: Thomas Nelson](#))

Carried about (4064) (**periphero** from **perí** = around + **phéro** = carry) literally means to carry about from one place to another, to carry here and there or to transport hither and thither. It is used of spinning tops. Such is the confusing effect of false doctrine. It pictures one whirled around as by a violent swinging that makes them dizzy. Picture a small dingy caught in a tempestuous storm and unable to hold a

steady course to safety in the harbor ("*the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation*" - see note [Ephesians 1:13](#)).

Every wind of doctrine - Pictures teachings like fashion fads and suggests childish caprice in taking up with these latest spiritual teachings. These "winds" are like the wind coming off the sea - always blowing, sometimes gently, sometimes with devastating force, but always "blowing" through the body of Christ. What "winds" are blowing through your local body? Are the gifted men, especially the pastor-teachers, who are given by Christ to set the correct course, fulfilling their purpose?

Every ([3956](#)) (**pas**) means all without exception.

Wind ([417](#)) (**anemos**) literally refers to wind but here is a figurative description of doctrinal instability.

Kent Hughes has an interesting illustration writing that...

When my children were small, we paid many family visits to 31 Flavors ice cream stores. Thirty-one choices! Sometimes it took them so long to choose a flavor, and when we got in the car and they saw what the others had chosen they changed their minds. This is the way the immature believer is: fickle — unstable — gullible — easily influenced by the latest book or preacher or fad — vulnerable to the wolves, of which there are plenty. ([Hughes, R. K.: Ephesians: The Mystery of the Body of Christ. Crossway Books](#))

MacDonald has a picturesque comment writing that "Immature Christians are susceptible to the grotesque novelties and fads of professional quacks. They become religious gypsies, moving to and fro from one appealing fantasy to another. ([MacDonald, W & Farstad, A. Believer's Bible Commentary: Thomas Nelson](#))

By the trickery of men -

Trickery ([2940](#)) (**kubeia** from **kubos** ~ gives us our English "cube", dice) literally refers to wicked dice playing or throwing dice and figuratively refers to intentional fraud or sleight of hand in the spiritual sense. **Kubeia**, the term for dice became synonymous with **trickery** of any sort. The dice were often "loaded" or otherwise manipulated by

professional gamblers to their own advantage which is a perfect picture of men coming into a congregation and manipulating the Word of God to make it say what they want it to say!

Warren Wiersbe has an insightful comment warning that...

The cultists do not try to win lost souls to Christ. They do not establish rescue missions in the slum areas of our cities, because they have no good news for the man on skid row. Instead, these false teachers try to capture immature Christians, and for this reason, most of the membership of the false cults comes from local churches, particularly churches that do not feed their people the Word of God. (Wiersbe, W: Bible Exposition Commentary. 1989. Victor)

Spurgeon once warned...

Beware! Error often rides to its deadly work on the back of truth!

In a parallel passage on **immature believers** the writer of **Hebrews** tells his readers...

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles (1st principles of Christian doctrine = the "ABC's") of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food (they are like adults who are still nursing on a bottle spiritually speaking!). 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness (they don't know how to practice the Biblical truths calling for and enabling righteous living), for he is a **babe (nepios)**. 14 But solid food (strong, sure, firm, immovable "food" - Sermons are good, but they are not to be compared with personal Spirit illuminated Bible study as soul food) is for the mature, who because of practice (habit) have their senses (implies a sort of spiritual intuition by which the sensitive Christian can, more or less, automatically discern whether something is right or wrong) trained (gymnazo - exercised) to discern good and evil. (See **notes Hebrews 5:12; 5:13; 5:14**)
(Comment: A maturing Christian must be a Biblically saturated Christian. and so the author assaults the readers with a vivid image of adult infants who are still nursing. Think of the tragic absurdity of full-grown believers in diapers, still not capable of ingesting, nor even

desiring solid food and who sit around sucking their thumbs. Such full grown infants amount to a huge disgrace and drain on the Church. The truth is, there is simply no such thing as a static Christian. We either move forward or fall back. We are either climbing or falling. We are either winning or losing. Static, status quo Christianity is a delusion! This training in discernment is vital)

BY CRAFTINESS IN DECEITFUL SCHEMING: en panourgia pros ten methodēian tes planes: ([Psalms 10:9](#); [59:3](#); [Micah 7:2](#); [Acts 23:21](#))

By craftiness in deceitful scheming - This Greek phrase is somewhat difficult to translate clearly into English but in simple terms I have paraphrased it as...

"cunning methods which deceive, delude and lead astray (from the truth)"

The **New English Bible** has a vivid paraphrase...

“dupes of crafty rogues and their deceitful schemes”

This is an apt description of the many cultists, religious racketeers, charlatans, false prophets and teachers, and manipulative religious leaders who abound in our day. They trap many immature Christians (including many spiritually immature Christians who are chronologically "mature") with their teachings that sound so right and enticing.

The **UBS Handbook** adds that...

It should be noted that the writer does not specify what are the wrong teachings which he condemns. Beare conjectures: “It is an eccentric individualism, rather than sectarianism, which is attacked” ([Bratcher, R. G., & Nida, E. A. UBS Handbook Series; New York: United Bible Societies](#))

Craftiness (3834) (**panourgia** from **pas** = all + **ergon** = work) is literally "all working" or capable of all work. In the NT it takes on a negative meaning and conveys the ideas of trickery involving cunning, cleverness, craftiness or treachery. **Panourgia** conveys the the idea of clever manipulation of error to make it look like the truth. Someone who practiced **panourgia** would be willing to do anything to achieve his goals. **Panourgia** is the unscrupulousness that stops at nothing.

Deceitful (4106) (**plane** from **planos** = deceitful, root idea = has idea of wandering) ([Click word study of related verb planao](#)) describes a roaming or a wandering and then figuratively a going astray or a wandering out of the right way. The verbal form planao means to cause to wander off the path, to cause someone to hold a wrong view and so to mislead or deceive.

Vincent says **plane** is an "error which shows itself in action...It may imply deceit as accompanying or causing error"

The literal use in the sense of roaming is found in the Greek historian Herodotus who records this note of Solon "who roamed the earth in search of new information".

TDNT has the following note on secular uses of **plane** writing that... The life of men who strive after various things (Critias Fr., 15 [Diels7, II, 381, 20]), indeed, the action of many men (Philodem. Philos. Volumina Rhetorica, VIII, 33) can be called an "error."

In the NT, **plane** is used only in the figurative sense to describe straying or wandering from the path of truth. The idea of plane is error, delusion, deception. **Plane** describes a wanderer, as a star or planet that appears not to stay on course. **Planes** is frequent in Greek secular writings to mean deceit. Aristotle uses plane for mistakes in investigation...Plane used in the active sense of deceit is late and rare (secular Greek). The passive (meaning) "illusion" in seeing and sense perception generally, the vacillation of knowledge found even in wise men, the error which is to be explained by overestimation of a hedone (pleasure) -- all these things can be denoted plane. ([Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. Theological Dictionary of the New Testament. Eerdmans](#))

Plane in the present verse describes one who wanders from the path of truth, orthodoxy or piety and into error, delusion or deceit.

Scheming (3180) (**methodeia [word study]** from verb **methodeúo** = follow up or investigate by method and settled plan. **Methodeuo** is derived from **meta** = with, after + **hodos** = a way) refers to an orderly logical effective arrangement usually in steps. It is a deliberate

planning or system. **Methodeia** has reference to planned, subtle, systematized error. Error organizes. It has its systems and its logic. Be alert! Be mature! Satan's scheming, crafty actions and artful designs have 'method' and purpose, for his aim is to mislead the immature who are not grounded on apostolic doctrine. Behind the evil men and women who seek to expound false teaching, there is also a supernatural evil power who seeks to deceive unwary saints with his "devilish" cunning.

Paul uses **methodeia** in his description of the wiles of the devil issuing a command to all believers to...

Put on (**aurist imperative**) the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the **schemes** (planned, subtle, methodical, deliberate, systematized error) of the devil. ([Ep 6:11-note](#))

ITS MASTER

LORA M. SWANN

That night the sea was furious as it frothed at the mouth, threatening to swallow the beaten boat. The crew of twenty, weather-beaten and cold, waited in the hull of the ship. They listened to the boat as it creaked and groaned. The ocean knocked its heavy fist against the sides of the small ship; threatening to enter with its brute force. The crew was silent, each man praying, hoping, yearning for the ocean to calm and not swallow them up so that they might see their families once more. Outside, the angry storm lashed at the sea with its lightening and growls. The sea thrashed back and forth as it raised a

mighty wave to cut the clouds. It was a fierce battle that only One could stop, and that One was to whom those sailors were praying to now. Five whole nauseating hours after the violent match started the clouds rolled back in retreat as the Son broke through. Even the mighty sea cowered its massive body as it submitted to its Master.



V. The Participation

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom

the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.