

## **Ephesians 5:15-21- Wise Living**

**15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

**ETS: Paul continues in his challenge to the church at Ephesus by encouraging them to live wisely as followers of Christ.**

**ESS: As Christians, we ought to choose to live wisely in these days.**

**OSS: I want for the hearers to walk wisely in these days**

**PQ: What? What does it look like to live wisely in these days?**

**UW:**

### **OPENING:**

**-Speak to Tylertown and all the Lord is doing**

**-Background on Ephesians 5- Children of the Light in Christ. Delivered from the Domain of Darkness and delivered into His marvelous Light!**

### **Read Ephesians 5:15-21**

### **OPENING ILLUSTRATION ON LIVING WISELY:**

**-NEW FIANCE. MY SOON TO BE WIFE HAS A 2 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER SHE ADOPTED AND IM LEARNING A TON ABOUT BEING A PARENT. OF COURSE HAVE A LOT MORE TO LEARN. But the biggest thing I've learned so far is the value of being intentional with their routine.**

**V. 15- Walking as a wise person- In the context here in the text, the phrase carries the meaning of precision and accuracy.. The opposite is walking carelessly and aimlessly without guidance and forethought.**

**We must not choose to be sleepwalkers... We gotta open our eyes to live this Christian life out. You and I don't luck into growth and maturity in the Christian**

life. We grow and mature in Christ when we choose to live carefully and wisely in these days.

What does Paul say living wisely looks like in this text?

Well first and foremost he says to be a good steward of the time..

### **1) Be A Good Steward of the Time Given**

Make the most of the time. The days are long but the years are short. The days are evil. We must make the most of the time we have in the Lord. The wise life seeks to invest in ultimately what lasts beyond this life.

Making the best use of the time.. What does that mean?

**Exalting Jesus in Ephesians: This text calls us to identify the things that fritter our time away and to prioritize everything relentlessly. Christians should make the most of their time because they do not want to waste their lives.**

*It is asking the question of what takes priority?*

**What our time ought to consist of-**

**Cultivating our walk with Jesus- Colossians 2:6-7**

**Caring for the Body:**

**Answering the Call to Invest in others**

I.E., Kingdom Stuff. Our time, our talents, our finances, etc...

We don't drift into growth in the Christian life... We must be intentional

Brevity of life is a strong reason to seize the day if you will.. Look to make the most of the time we have in this life!

Because the days are evil... speaks to the Roman persecution that was taking place there during that time. The opportunity to minister and witness was being threatened during that time

*The phrase "The days are evil" refers to the idea of "this present evil age" (Gal 1:4) in which all are living. We must passionately shine our light in this dark world*

*while we have breath. When we see the King, we will not regret having spent our lives wisely.*

How foolish could one be in not making the most of the time they had when things were calm?

**“Only one life, this too shall pass. Only what is done for Christ will last.”**

Secondly, we see here that Wise Living Consists of choosing to....

## **2) Walk in God's Will for Your Life.**

Paul then secondly says that Wise Living in Christ consists of Walking in God's Will for our lives.

That word Understand denotes the fact that we have been given brains from the Lord and are able to discover and do His WILL for our lives!

Quote about God's Will-

-Universal Will- TO live in a way that's pleasing to the Lord

-Paul says in the Thessalonians that God's will for us is OUR SANCTIFICATION. 1 Thessalonians 4:3- For this is the will of God, your sanctification:

-God's will is not some mystery for us to spend our whole lives figuring out.. It is known and He wants us to know it and walk in it.

***It is a fool who decides to live in accordance with their own plan, their own purpose, their own prerogative.***

***He is referring to God's already revealed will, and for us today that means understanding the Bible. Believers need to understand what God has called every believer to pursue and what He has called every believer to avoid. In short, understanding the Lord's will means to pattern our lives after Jesus (cf. Rom 8:29).***

Be careful not to fall victim to, as many believers do, in worshiping \*what God's will is for your life over worshiping Him.

### **PROVERBS 3:5-6**

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.**

**In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.**

Wisdom consists of living out God's will for our lives. We discover His will as we seek His face and His truth. He will reveal to us.

### **3) WORSHIP THE LORD.**

Living wisely consists of choosing to worship the Lord.

**a) Starts With the Spirit-Filled Life:** The Holy Spirit as the.....

*“controlling influence motivating the and directing the lives of believers” A call to enjoy the wholeness of life with God.*

*Paul says here- Do not be drunk with wine, but rather be filled with the Holy Spirit of God. What does that mean? When one is inebriated.. When one is TURNED UP.. they are controlled by said substance.*

*Paul warns them not to engage in that, but rather choose to BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. What he is suggesting is to choose to come under the Spirit of God's control in your life.*

*How are you Filled with His Spirit?*

**Daily emptying yourself (Confession and Repentance) Romans 12:1-2**

**Daily Submission to the Spirit- Ephesians 5**

**Daily Fellowship with the Father. (Time with Him in prayer and the Word) John 14:6**

### **b) Singing**

Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs... Two parts here. We speak to the first

The wise thing is to understand WHO you are singing to. The Subject of OUR worship. Its the Lord. He is good and worthy to be worshiped whether the song is your worship style or not!

**Singing is the natural expression of joy that God brings into a person's life. The presence of early Christian hymns (e.g., 1 Tim. 3:16; possibly Phil. 2:6–11) gives some indication of the importance of songs in the early church. The purpose of singing is both praise to God and instruction of believers. Singing, then, has two audiences.**

**Christians sing to each other, reminding each other about God's character and work in Christ, but they also sing to the Lord as a way of offering praise to him. In the parallel in Colossians 3:16 singing is addressed to God, but "Lord" here in Ephesians 5:19 clearly refers to Christ.**

**Hymns in Revelation are addressed both to God and to the Christ/the Lamb (5:9, 13; 7:10; 12:10), and the typical feature of hymns identified in the New Testament is their focus on Jesus as Lord.**

**Later, in a famous letter written about a.d. 111, Pliny the Younger described Christians meeting early to sing antiphonally a hymn to Christ as to God.**

**Wise Living is posturing your heart to choose to sing and worship the Lord no matter how you feel because no matter how you feel, He is still King and still in control.**

### **c) Involves a Heart of Gratitude**

**Joy comes from the Spirit. An attitude of Gratitude consists of walking in the Spirit. In Christ, we are able to walk in Gratitude. Wise living is choosing to be grateful for the Lord- who He is and what He has done**

**It is hard to complain when you give the Lord praise.**

**Trip to Uganda Illustration.**