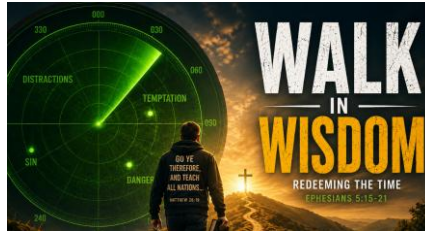


Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
 Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 5:15-21 – Redeeming the time and living a Spirit-filled life

Today’s Message:

“Walk in Wisdom”



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned that we should visibly live in great contrast to the darkness of the world we are trying to reach. We focused on our *example*, our *separation*, and our *testimony* as children of light. Today, we will focus on wise living. God will tell us not to walk as fools, but as wise. So, what does that look like? God has given us all the details as usual. A Spirit-filled life has evidence that can be seen and experienced by other people. May God lead us to a closer walk with Him. This is His message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ **The Text** **Ephesians 5:15-21**

A. Walk Circumspectly – there are many opportunities and dangers in the world.

- Christians must live intentionally **WISE** and careful lives – not foolishly.

“Walk”
 Daily lifestyle.
 Consistent conduct.

- **Ephesians 5:15** – See then that ye **walk circumspectly**, not AS FOOLS, but AS WISE,
- **Ephesians 5:16** – **Redeeming the time**, because the days are evil.
- **Ephesians 5:17** – Wherefore be ye not UNWISE, but understanding WHAT the will of the Lord is.

Wise
 Joseph
Foolish
 Samson

“Foolish Man” 7x
Job 5:2 – wrath killed
Ps 74:22 – reproaches God
Prov 14:7 – evil lips
Prov 15:20 – despises
Prov 21:20 – spends up \$
Prov 29:9 – exhausting
Mt 7:26 – house on sand

“Walk circumspectly” – cautiously; vigilantly; with watchfulness to guard against danger
 “Not as fools” – destitute of reason; one who acts absurdly; who builds a house on sand!
 “As wise” – biblical wisdom is not head knowledge; it is applying and living God’s truth
 “Redeeming the time” – time is a stewardship from God; urgency of life; seizing the day
 “The days are evil” – anything can happen; easily wasted; opportunities disappear quickly
 “Understanding...the will of the Lord is” – intentional, obedient living; spiritual maturity

“Wise Man” 30x
Job 17:10 – rare to find
Prov 1:5 – hears, grows
Prov 9:8 – loves rebuke
Prov 14:16 – departs evil
Prov 29:11 – keeps it in
Ecc 8:5 – discernment
Ecc 10:12 – gracious words
Jer 9:12 – understands
 Jas 3:13-18 – wise lifestyle

Comparing Scriptures

- **Colossians 4:5** – Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.
- **Job 28:28** – ... fear of the Lord, that IS wisdom; and to depart from evil IS understanding.
- **Jeremiah 4:22** – ... they are **wise to do evil**, but to do good they have no knowledge.

Practical Application

- **Waste Time:** endless entertainment/scrolling, laziness, bitterness, drama, carnality
- **Redeem Time:** Bible reading/study, prayer, witnessing, serving, family, church

“...understanding what the will of the Lord is.”
 What are the consequences of not obeying our Lord in this area?
Opportunities lost, spiritual growth suffers, families suffer, ministries weaken, sin gains ground, the world influences the Christian more than Jesus Christ does.

B. Walk Spirit-Filled – everyone is controlled by something.

2. Christians must obey the Lord to live a Spirit-**FILLED** and Spirit-led life.

- **Ephesians 5:7** – And **BE NOT DRUNK** with wine, wherein is excess; but **BE FILLED with the Spirit**;

Social Drinking?
See a lengthy Biblical study on the website.

Controlling Influences

- Alcohol
- Prescriptions
- Substance abuse
- Anger and wrath
- Sports and games
- Politics and Govt
- Entertainment
- Career ambitions
- Social Media
- Personal comfort
- Financial pursuits

“Be not drunk with wine” – one example of intoxication of **many** controlling influences
 “Wherein is excess” – a Christian can abstain from alcohol and still be flesh-controlled
 “Be filled with the Spirit” – not getting more of the Spirit – it is Him getting more of you!

Practical Applications (*After the Spirit – Romans 8:1, 4; In the Spirit – Galatians 5:16-25*)

- **What fills you?** Wrath (*Gen 4*), Envy (*Acts 13:45*), Fear (*Lk 8:24*), Satan (*Acts 6:3*), Holy Spirit?
- **What comes out?** When life gets squeezed? Praise? Gratitude? Scripture? Faith? Grace?

1 Corinth 6:12 –All things are lawful unto me... but I will not be brought under the power of any.

- **More questions.** What influences your thinking? What controls your reactions? What shapes your decisions, occupies your thoughts, determines your schedule?
- **Filled with the Spirit.** It is continual surrender, obedience, and yielding to God.

C. Visible Evidence – there is clear and visible evidence of a Spirit-filled life.

3. Christians can walk wisely and **KNOW** when they are *filled* with the **Holy** Spirit.

- **Ephesians 5:19** – SPEAKING TO YOURSELVES in *psalms... hymns... spiritual songs*
- **Ephesians 5:20** – GIVING THANKS ALWAYS for all things unto God...
- **Ephesians 5:21** – SUBMITTING YOURSELVES **one to another** in the fear of God.

“Speaking to yourselves” – Christ-centered conversation, encouragement, and worship
Psalms – Scripture based songs – it is literally putting music to the words of God.
Hymns – Songs focused on Bible truth, doctrine and praiseworthy statements.
Spiritual Songs – Testimonies and expressions of spiritual truth in praise to God.

“Giving thanks always for all things” – A life of gratitude in all seasons of life at all times.
Thankful hearts – reveals trust, humility, dependance upon God – irrespectively

“Submitting yourselves” – God-fearing humility, servant mindset, willingness to yield

Practical Applications (*What is the evidence of a Spirit-filled life?*)

- **#1: Worshipful Speech.** Evaluate your speech. A life of song or discouragement?
- **#2: Thankful Heart.** Evaluate your gratitude. A life of thanks or complaining?
- **#3: Humble Submission.** Evaluate your humility. A life of others or selfishness?

Worship

1st mention: **sacrifice**

Giving God the glory, honor, and praise that He deserves.

Joyful expression of love for Jesus Christ.

Christ-centered praise, adoration, and thanksgiving.

Flesh-controlled Life	Spirit-filled Life	Your Life?
Walk carelessly and selfishly	Walk wisely and according to God's will	
Controlled by carnal influences	Controlled by the Holy Spirit	
Vain conversation and speech	Worshipful and joyful speech	
Bitterness and complaining	Thanksgiving and gratitude	
Self-centered and proud	Others focused and humble	

“... be filled with the Spirit”

The Christian life is not to be accidental, passive, careless or worldly.
 A wasted life is not merely a sinful life – it is a distracted life that fails to walk wisely with God.