

Connected: My Life in the Church
Speaker: Dr. Bill Patterson



Today's Scripture

Ephesians 5:15-21 NIV

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live— not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.



Soul Food

GOING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

You are encouraged to read verses before and after the selected passages.

Sunday: Ephesians 5:15-21 Minutes matter.

Mon: James 1:2-6 Lack wisdom? Ask God!

Tue: Colossians 4:5-6 Be wise in your actions.

Wed: Eph. 6:10-20 How to prepare for evil days.

Thurs: Rom. 12:1-2, 1 Thess. 4:3-8 God's will is plain.

Friday: Psalm 34:1 Col. 3:17 Give praise to God.

Saturday: Heb. 13:15-16 Sacrifice of praise.

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Sermon Notes



Big Idea: Serving in the Church is not about what I want.

Trinity

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 1:22 (NIV)

Your Life in Light of the Word

To become a mature, spiritually reproducing follower of Jesus we have to interact with the Bible. These questions are designed to help you dig deeper into the Word of God.



Once time has passed it cannot be recalled. What are the time wasters in your life?

Read Ephesians 5:15-21. How does this show serving in the church is not about what I want?

What is the contrast between living wisely or unwisely according to Ephesians 5:15-21?

As you evaluate your life do you see yourself using your limited time wisely or unwisely?

How can you make better use of opportunities to serve God?

Is obeying God's will important to you?

If your life were evaluated by an outside agency, what evidence would there be showing your obedience to God? (If you were put on trial for being a Christ-follower, would you be convicted?)

If there is no evidence of living in obedience to Jesus, can a person call themselves a Christ follower?

How do Christian's make the best use of time in evil days?

Praying God's Word ~ Ephesians 4:25-32

- Thank God He makes His will known to us in the Bible.
- Ask God for wisdom in how you live your life.
- Ask God for protection, we live in evil times.
- Commit yourself to allowing the Holy Spirit to live through you.
- Examine your speech before speaking.
- Do not allow your personal preferences to become demands.



NOTES:

The American dream beckons people to spend their lives on trivial diversions, slipping through life caught up with seeking success, comfort, and pleasure above all else. But God designed people for far more than this.

In this best-selling book, John Piper makes a passionate plea to the next generation to avoid the dangers of a wasted life, calling us to take risks and make sacrifices that matter for eternity — with a single, soul-satisfying passion for the glory of God that seeks to make much of Him in every sphere of our lives.

Dr. John Piper, is making his book and study guide, *Don't Waste Your Life*, available to you for free. You can download a pdf file at <http://www.desiringgod.org/books/dont-waste-your-life>.

Or you can contact the church office to have it emailed to you. You can also purchase a copy at Amazon for: paper \$10.49, or Kindle for \$7.14.