



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: Carpe Diem

Date: August 9, 2026

Scripture Text: Ephesians 5:15-17

Notes:

We live in a day where distractions abound. Anywhere you look is distracting information: streaming videos, social media, television, etc. If we aren't careful, we can miss opportunities because of the distractions. Opportunities where we could: lend someone a helping hand, give a word of encouragement, or invite someone to church. If we are not living in the moment, we could miss opportunities to be "Jesus with skin on". There may be times that it's not information that can distract but expectations. How often do we miss the here and now because we are focused on that which is to come, i.e. the weekend, upcoming fun activity, or maybe even the end of today's service 😞. The Bible teaches that Christians should be wise and careful in all things, including their use of time. Our use of time is not neutral; it can be evil if it is not invested for good ([Ps 90](#)).

I. Be Wise Concerning Your Walk ([Eph. 5:15](#))

In [Psalm 23:3](#), the psalmist cries out to God to guide him "in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake", and in [Psalm 119:105](#) the psalmist describes the word of God as "a lamp to my feet and a light to my path". As we are wise concerning our walk, this includes time with God and time in His word. Both will guide us in a walking wisely, a walk where we are blessed and He is glorified.

- How would you describe what it means to be wise concerning your walk? What is a "walk"?
- A wise walk could be described as the journey of living in alignment with God's will, characterized by faith, obedience, holiness, and a right relationship with Him.
- A wise walk includes spending time with God. How do we do that?
- How can time in prayer and in God's word help us know God better and to walk wisely?
- Also, a wise walk includes having godly friends. How often do you engage with other Christian brothers/sisters?
- When was the last time you spent time with other Christians outside church, beyond Sunday morning?

II. Be Wise Concerning Your Time ([Eph. 5:16](#))

For many, time can be seen as the enemy. We never have enough time to do all we want. If we aren't careful, we can live life in one big rush. God not only provides for our material needs, but He also provides time to do all which He has called us to do. It is up to us if we use the time He has given for His purpose or for ours ("the days are evil").



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- What are examples of unwise uses of time?
- The use of time has two dimensions. The first is a God-given calling to be involved in His work. What are examples of God-given callings to be involved in His work?
- The second dimension of time is how you spend your time outside of God-given opportunities. How do you spend your time when you're not directly doing a God-given task?
- [Gal. 6:10](#) states; "So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith." How can serving one another be a wise use of time?

To be wise concerning our time does not mean you can't 'veg out' in front of the TV or scroll through your favorite social media venue. But we must be discerning about the time we spend on them compared to what God may be calling us to do.

III. Be Wise Concerning God's Will (Eph. 5:17)

The Apostle Paul encourages his readers to "understand what the will of the Lord is". For many, that seems like an impossibility. But contrary to that perspective, God wants us to know His will ([Acts 22:14](#)). He has even given us a road map to help us discern His will in [Rom. 12:2](#). We cannot see this as a formula that we can successfully accomplish on our own. To understand God's will requires a wise walk and wise use of time, living in a close relationship and being dependent on Him.

- God's will can be broken down to His *general will* (which is found in His word), and His *specific will*, as it applies uniquely to us.
 - His general will includes our salvation ([2 Pet. 3:9](#)), obedience to His word ([1 Pet. 2:13-15](#)), sanctification ([1 Thess. 4:3](#)) and praying with thanksgiving ([1 Thess. 5:18](#)).
 - Other areas that are in accordance with His will are to love, give, make disciples, gather with the saints.
 - His *general will* applies to everyone.
 - How well would you say you 'understand' God's *general will*?
 - Give examples of how you exercise each of these items listed.
 - His *specific will* can include direction He gives through the Holy Spirit which could relate to occupational or situational events (who do you marry, should I take this job, should I accept a specific role in the church, etc.)
 - What are examples when you sought God's direction and understanding of His *specific will* for a situation in your life?
 - How can you understand God's *specific will*?
 - Peace through the Holy Spirit ([Col. 3:15](#))
 - Consistency with prior God-given milestones in your life.
 - Consistent with scripture.