

WALKING IN WISDOM

The Book of Ephesians

Introduction

- I. The Wise Walk Is a **Diligent** Walk – Ephesians 5:15
 - A. Walking Diligently Keeps Us from **Defection** – Psalm 14:1, Romans 1:21-22, Titus 3:3-6
 - B. Walking Diligently Keeps Us from **Disobedience** – Galatians 3:1,3
 - C. Walking Diligently Keeps Us from **Destruction** – 1 Timothy 6:9
- II. The Wise Walk Is a **Disciplined** Walk – Ephesians 5:16, Psalm 90:10, 1 Chronicles 29:15, Job 7:6, Psalm 39:5, Psalm 102:3, Psalm 103:15-16, James 4:14, Psalm 90:12
- III. The Wise Walk Is a **Directed** Walk – Ephesians 5:17, Psalm 37:4, John 7:17, Psalm 32:8-9
- IV. The Wise Walk Is a **Dynamic** Walk – Ephesians 5:18-21
 - A. The **Command** to Be Filled With the Spirit – Ephesians 5:18
 - B. The **Consequences** to Being Filled With the Spirit – Ephesians 5:19-21
 1. A Dynamic Way of **Speaking** – Ephesians 5:19
 2. A Dynamic Way of **Singing** – Ephesians 5:19
 3. A Dynamic Way of **Saying “Thank You”** – Ephesians 5:20
 4. A Dynamic Way of **Submitting** – Ephesians 5:21

Conclusion

1. **Desire** to Be Filled – John 7:37-39, James 4:2
2. **Denounce** Sin in Your Life – 1 John 1:9
3. **Dedicate** Yourself Fully to Christ – Romans 12:1-2
4. **Depend Daily** on the Holy Spirit – Galatians 5:16

2. Read Psalm 14:1, Romans 1:21-22, and Titus 3:3-6. If a person is not walking in wisdom, what does this say about their character? Their heart? Their way of doing life? **When you become a Christian you move out of foolishness and begin to walk in the wisdom of God, just as you move from lust to love and from darkness to light. It is possible, however, to start off on the path of wisdom as a new believer and find yourself moving off that path and doing foolish things again.**

3. Read 1 Timothy 6:9. How might a Christian “self-destruct” even though she/he is a follower of Jesus? Describe an example of this type of personal implosion. **We heard, “Any Christian can be tempted; and if he yields to that temptation, he can find himself sidetracked and possibly destroyed. If you walk wisely and keep your focus on godly goals, that won’t happen. To do that, you have to walk circumspectly—with your eyes wide open for the traps and snares that are in everyone’s path. Living with your head buried in the sand of naivete is a quick way to stumble and fall.”**

4. Read Ephesians 5:16. In what way might a person obediently live in order to “redeem” the time he/she has been given by God? **There are two words in the Greek language that are commonly translated by the word “time.” The first word is the word “chronos.” This is the word for clock time. We get our word “chronometer” from this Greek word. This is the word for hours, minutes, and seconds. The second word for time is the word “kairos.” This is the word that Paul uses here in Ephesians. This refers to a measured, fixed season or period of time. Kairos has to do not with the linear passage of time but with a set period of time. Paul doesn’t say, “redeeming time;” he says “redeeming the time”—a specific period of time. The time of which he speaks is the block of time allotted to each of us—our lifetime. He is talking about the time God has given us here on this earth to serve Him. It is a fixed time.**

5. Our earthly lives are simultaneously precious and brief. Read the following passages and discuss the need for us to be obediently intentional with the limited time we have been given. God gives us these pictures so we will understand what a privilege we have to be alive since life itself, in the grand scheme of things, is so fleeting. I like what I read once about the gift of time. Paul instructs his readers to “redeem” the time, a word that speaks of quickly snatching up a bargain you come across at the market, a special opportunity that rarely comes. It means to go into the marketplace, search out bargains, and take advantage of them. The bargains would be the wise choices which embody the Christian life. In other words, “Be alert in these evil days to seize the opportunity at making the right choice. When the world is at its worst, Christians should be at their best.”

I Chronicles 29:15

Job 7:6

Psalms 39:5

Psalms 102:3

Psalms 103:15-16

James 4:14

Applying the Message

1. Describe the way in which your life feels complicated, difficult or even overwhelming? When/where did this begin? *One way of thinking about this is to remember that The more complicated life gets through increased opportunities, the more disciplined we have to become about what we choose to do.*
2. Read Galatians 5:16. How might deliberately engaging in a new, obedient way of doing life help you live with less complications? What is the next step of faith that would take you in this direction? *Pastor Jeremiah gave us four ways of living more intentionally in obedience to Jesus: 1) Desiring to be filled with the Holy Spirit; 2) Denouncing sin in one's life; 3) Dedicating oneself fully to Jesus; and 4) depending daily on the Holy Spirit.*