

The Wisdom Walk

[Eph 5:15-16 ESV] 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.

I. Intro

- A. We have covered a lot in Ephesians 5:
 - 1. Be Imitators of God
 - 2. Walk in LOVE, as dearly loved Children of God
 - 3. Run from Sin
 - 4. Walk in Light, an example of the glory of God
 - 5. Now, we look to WISDOM
- B. Wisdom is defined:
 - 1. a: ability to discern inner qualities and relationships : INSIGHT
 - 2. b: good sense : JUDGMENT
 - 3. c: generally accepted belief
- C. Wisdom is gained by insight from experience, but is no guarantee, you must be intentional.
- D. The context of chapter 5 is to be imitators of God, that means, in this context, we gain wisdom from our faith walk with Him.
 - 1. Yet I still hear every day from people who would rather go their own way rather than the path God has for them.
 - 2. I hear people trying to change God's precepts and plan, so they can excuse their own sin and unrepentant heart.
 - 3. This is our battle!
- E. Your Walk is to reflect the URGENCY OF THE HOUR in following CHRIST.
 - 1. Your walk marks you
 - 2. ILLUSTRATION: when you meet someone, don't ask them if they are from Texas, they will tell you!
 - 3. And if they are not from Texas, you don't want to embarrass them by asking.

II. Text

- A. Look carefully
 - 1. Greek: Blepo
 - 2. Take heed, pay close attention
 - 3. You possess the power of seeing
- B. How you walk
 - 1. This is the physical response to the spiritual truth
 - 2. Your walk of Faith
- C. Not as unwise
 - 1. The UNWISE are all around
 - 2. Be different from that!
 - 3. Unwise Illustration:
- D. But as wise
 - 1. By the power of God, wisdom is yours to possess
 - 2. We are the hindrance in comprehension of this wisdom, not God's plan
- E. Making the best use of the time
 - 1. This may be the greatest challenge for us
 - 2. No. Wasted. Moments.
- F. Because the days are evil
 - 1. Because it matters
 - 2. We cannot compromise to the pattern of the world, we must be renewed in our mind and spirit by the power of God!

III. Points

- A. The days are evil

1. This is shocking to so many of us, evil is seemingly everywhere, and can get us distracted and discouraged from our mission
 2. The days are evil:
 - a) Hatred, murder, abuse...all reported on a 24 hour news cycle
 - b) Obvious examples of evil all around...
 - c) But what about self righteousness, and humanistic thinking, selfishness?
 - (1) Evil is evil
 - (2) We find it on anything touched by man.
 3. The days...
 - a) This was written during a time of persecution of Christians
 - b) Paul was in prison, at the hands of evil men
 - c) Placed there by the self righteous, into the hands of the lawless, both parties evil
 - d) Today, we think about how bad things have gotten, but the reality is, the best man can do in the flesh is evil.
 - e) These days, we cannot escape the thoughts of evil all around, but in doing so, we forget that it is also should remind us of our mission!
- B. Make best use of time
1. Use what time we have left wisely
 2. Invest in that which needs investment
 3. Serve wherever you see a need
 4. Do what needs to be done, because that's what believers do!
 5. The danger I'm warning you about:
 - a) Getting mad at the sin of the world without motivation to bring change
 - b) Taking your focus from the mission because you are focused on the things that upset you.
 - c) Failing to speak truth, and live for truth because of discouragement received from the world.
 6. We have a huge opportunity!
 - a) To make the most of the days we are here
 - b) To walk in LOVE LIGHT AND WISDOM in a fallen world that seems determined to prove its fallen nature.
 7. Don't just make the best of a bad situation, make the best use of the time!
 - a) Your tactic may need to change, though your mission and message cannot
 - b) Your focus may need to be further resolved, though the enemy will try to steal, kill, and destroy.
 8. So, walk in wisdom...
- C. Walk in Wisdom
1. This is the place we show the world how different we are.
 2. The way we walk matters, and its all connected to our desire to reflect and honor our Lord!
 3. Wisdom will:
 - a) Warn us of bad decisions
 - b) Remind us of God's plan from the beginning
 - c) Restore joy in the midst of suffering
 - d) Bring assurance of right direction
 4. Why?
 - a) Because God has spoken, so we follow Him
 - b) Because God is at work, and we can see Him
 - c) Because Hope brings us a reminder of assurance
 - d) Because peace is available when we yield...again
 5. You may have to learn a lesson a few times, before you trust Christ fully
 - a) But he will not fail
 - b) He has not failed
 - c) He can not fail

6. Wisdom is a gift from God, but much of the wisdom I've gained has come from correction:
 - a) God will set us right when we humbly submit.
 - b) God will restore us when we repent
 - c) God will remind us of His glory when we ask, and seek...we will find!

IV. Close