

## The Contrast with Christ

[Eph 5:16-18 ESV] 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

### I. Intro

- A. The days are evil, so we need to be different.
- B. We are to walk in Love, Light and Wisdom
  - 1. That will mark us as different from the world
  - 2. That will challenge us to be more like Jesus
  - 3. That will cause us to check our walk and make sure it looks like Jesus.
- C. Go back to verse 1: [Eph 5:1 ESV] 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

### II. Text

- A. Verse 16: the days are evil, we face it everyday, it should be a motivator!
- B. Verse 17
  - 1. Therefore...this is a building thought based upon the foundation that has already been shared.
  - 2. We are to be different from the world in a great contrast
- C. Verse 18
  - 1. Do not get drunk with wine:
    - a) it is a dangerous thing for a believer
    - b) There is no room in the Spirit Filled life for drunkenness.
  - 2. Debauchery:
    - a) extreme indulgence in bodily pleasures, seduction from virtue or duty
    - b) It is debauchery to invest your time left in that which is a counterfeit for the joy found in the Spirit filled life
  - 3. Be filled with the Spirit
    - a) The verb tense implies as continual, ongoing filling
    - b) Also, this implies that we can be so disconnected from the work of the Spirit that we are no longer overflowing with the joy that comes from the Spirit!

### III. Point

- A. Wisdom and Foolishness
  - 1. The text is clearly stating that we are to walk in wisdom, and that is in great contrast to foolishness.
  - 2. Our default response to challenges in life is to handle the matter in our own strength, and this is foolishness.
  - 3. Making the best use of the time, because the days are evil
    - a) Use your time wisely
    - b) Beware of evil's unrelenting attempt to distract you!
    - c) That which is evil is not always perfectly clear, Satan will cloak it in something that looks innocent or benign.
      - (1) It may look like an opportunity, but it is a distraction
      - (2) It may look like fun, but has no eternal value
      - (3) It may look important, but can steal your time and resources
      - (4) It may look necessary, but just create busy followers that don't have time for ministry.
    - d) Evil's unrelenting attack on humanity is something we must be prepared for, but will never get used to.
  - 4. It is foolishness to try any other path to find God's blessing:
    - a) Submit completely
    - b) Yield your will
    - c) Serve as you are gifted
    - d) Wait on the Lord!

- e) [Isa 40:28-31 ESV] 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. 30 Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; 31 but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.
- f) Anything other way to find the Lord's blessing will be different from this verse and place the strength of man back at the center of the story: a counterfeit

#### B. Debauchery and Spirit-Filled

1. Counterfeits will always leave you empty
  - a) Drunkenness is a counterfeit for the joy of the Lord
  - b) Sexual Immorality is a counterfeit for the joy found in right marriage relationship
  - c) Impurity is a counterfeit for the fruits of the spirit
  - d) Covetousness is a counterfeit for drive and direction to achieve all God has placed before you.
  - e) Spiritual Counterfeits are attempted short cuts to get the feeling of blessing of the Spirit Filled life.
    - (1) THERE IS NO SHORT CUT, THERE IS NO OTHER WAY
    - (2) YOU MUST DIE TO SELF AND LIVE FOR CHRIST!
2. The Counterfeits feed the self serving nature and take our eyes off the plan of God!
  - a) We put things as more important that are less important
  - b) We substitute the things of God with the desires of world.
  - c) Counterfeits will cause you to look upon the temporal things rather than the eternal.
  - d) The plan of God is a blessing to us that bring fulfillment, and are illustrations to the world of the importance of relationship with God! The Counterfeits magnify the illustration as the point, with no thought of God's plan.
3. The Spirit Filled life is what humans are created to walk in, and any other way than submission to Christ will lead to emptiness.
4. Indulging in the counterfeits that produce temporary pleasures is in direct contrast to the Spirit Filled Life!
5. The life in the Spirit has no need for these counterfeits.

#### C. Good and Evil

1. The battle between good and evil is going on all around us.
2. But, make no mistake, this is not a battle that is on equal ground!
  - a) Yin/Yang philosophy is a falsehood when considered with Biblical truth
  - b) Equal and opposing forces does not describe the work of the God of the Bible.
3. The God of the Bible:
  - a) The creator who spoke the world into existence
  - b) The God who chose the most unlikely people to give His voice to.
  - c) The God who set the standard so high that only HE could measure up.
  - d) The God who became our sacrifice and made a way for salvation for us by HIS OWN BLOOD
  - e) The God who is all powerful, and is completely sovereign over all things
4. Evil has a foothold in our world, but don't allow it to have a foothold in your life!
5. Don't receive the counterfeit to truth, and find yourself lacking.
6. Run fast and hard after the things of God, and find joy in the Lord!

#### IV. Close

- A. Don't miss the joy of the Lord!
- B. Don't miss it because you are too busy
- C. Don't miss it because you refuse to yield to Him
- D. Don't miss it because you fail to grow
- E. Don't miss it because you replace it.

F. Walk in LOVE, LIGHT, and WISDOM...and in the Spirit!