

**Title:** Be Careful How You Walk

**Passage:** Ephesians 5:15-20

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

**Introduction:**

Ephesians 5 (practical implications of the Gospel in our lives)

*“Therefore, be careful how you walk, not as unwise but as wise” (v.15)*

- “walk” = life you live
  - Implies living consistent and obedient with God’s Word.

Psalms 86:11

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.

Psalms 1

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water

that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

**Overview:** Five Callings/Commandments

I. Call to walk carefully (v.15-16)

II. Call to be purposeful (v. 17)

III. Call to be worshipful/songful (v.18)

IV. (v..20)

V. Call to be thankful (v.19)

**I. CALL TO WALK CAREFULLY (V. 15-16)**

*“Therefore, be careful how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.”*

- Be careful...because the days are evil

*“Days are evil”*

- we likewise are in days that are evil

Romans 1:21

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

2 Timothy 4:3

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,

“Careful”

- be accurate and exact, investigate with great care, alertness (not naive)

1 Peter 5:8

*Be sober-minded; be watchful.* Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, *against the spiritual forces of evil* in the heavenly places.

“making the most of your time”

- ”time” = “kairos” = an opportunity in time = not limitless but a moment
- ”your time” = the time God has given you here in this world, which is limited. Be aware of the brevity of life.

Psalms 90:9, 12

For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh...So teach us to number our days  
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

- Book Recommendation: “Don’t Waste Your Life” (John Piper)
  - Have discernment and passion to live for Christ. You will make it home sooner than you think. Don’t settle for anything less than living for Christ.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

- Seek Christ first and place Him in clear view of the purpose of your time and how you use it.

Matthew 25:23

Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.

- Work and live as unto God. You will receive His heavenly reward and approval.

## **II. CALL TO BE PURPOSEFUL (v.17)**

*“So then, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”*

- God’s will, wisdom, and ways are found in God’s Word

*“The will of the Lord”*

1 Thessalonians 4:3

For this is the will of God, your sanctification

- God’s will = that you be made holy.
- How?
  - Made holy through faith in Christ (justification)

- Become holy more like Christ (sanctification)
- Walk/live holy (set apart)

Model for Prayer for others:

- Have faith in Christ
- become more like Christ
- live lives for Christ

Pray for your children to:

- Be Placed in God's kingdom through faith in Christ
- Be a Picture of the kingdom
- use their lives to Promote His kingdom

Quote: "Only one life will soon be past, only what has been done for Christ will last."

### **III. CALL TO BE SPIRIT-FUL (v.18)**

*"And do not get drunk with wine, for that leads to debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit."*

*Debauchery*

- Meaning: indulgence in sensual pleasures, lack of self-control leading to excesses/sin
- Ex: DUI = driving under the influence (something affecting how you think and behave)

*"Be filled with the Spirit"*

- Distinction: baptized in the Spirit (one-time upon placing faith in Christ)

Ephesians 1:13-14

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

- The whole of the Holy Spirit already dwells in you.
- "be filled" = on-going verb = keep on being filled
  - be continually under the influence of the Holy Spirit.
  - It is not getting more of the Spirit but allowing the Spirit to get more of you (lordship)

Matthew 6:10

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Luke 9:23

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

### **IV. CALL TO BE WORSHIPFUL/SONGFUL (v.19)**

*"Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, sing Gil and making melody with your heart to the Lord"*

- Let your lives be filled with songs that praise and honor God, in both good and bad times

Psalms 40:3

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

Psalms 77:5-6

I consider the days of old, the years long ago. I said, "Let me remember my song in the night; let me meditate in my heart."

Zephaniah 3:17 (God sings as well over you)

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; *he will exult over you with loud singing.*

**V. CALL TO BE THANKFUL (v.20)**

*"Always giving thanks for all things to God the father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

*Giving thanks*

- Live a thankful lifestyle.
- To live thanks is to give thanks.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

*For all things*

- Thankful that God is still sovereign, in control, at all times.

Psalms 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Job 1:21

And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Psalms 119:71

It is good for me that I was afflicted,  
that I might learn your statutes.

1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.