

Be Careful How You walk

Ephesians 5: 15-21

10/6/02

Intro

- Misha's first birthday in America.
- Thank you to all who helped paint the church.
- Soon we'll be needing help with the landscaping.

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From chapter 4:17 through chapter five, Paul has been explaining the importance of how we walk as Christians in a world that is very much not Christian.

That is our trouble; how to walk in this world and here in these verses Paul continues to give more insight into how to walk. He started by saying, "Don't walk as the Gentiles walk – in the futility of their mind," and now gives instruction and encouragement in **how** then to walk.

Illus – Let's say I'm driving back from Corvallis after the game. The way home is clearly marked. I know where to drive, the question is how to drive. If I cut people off and drive through the meridian, there will surely be troubles.

Paul says that we should be careful how we walk and then tells us how...

I. Walk as a person that is wise.

How do you walk as wise rather than unwise?

A. Making the most of our time.

Vs 16

- Because the days are evil.
- Here Paul is telling us that to walk as wise men we must make the most of our time, meaning that we should "**redeem the time.**"

- The reason is because the days are evil. He was no doubt referring to the fact that the Romans had control over the region and their influence was not good.

Illus – Paul is telling us that the most effective way to walk in wisdom is by making godly choices about how we use our time. "Idle hands are the tools of the devil," was an old saying. Some people take that to the extreme and say that you can't even watch a football game (though some football games are not worth watching). Paul's point is to that being about God's purpose in our lives keeps us from wandering into ungodly territory.

The second way we walk in wisdom is to...

II. Understand what the will of the Lord is.

Vs 17

- A. First, we must understand what the words, "will of God" mean.
 - Most people assume that **will of God** has one meaning and look no further.
 - But **will of God** has several meanings depending on how it's used.
 - The largest meaning is simply that God is Sovereign over all things.
- B. Most people who study this subject believe that there are three different types of God's will.

- 1) **God's moral will** – that which God would have us do because it is according to His Word.
- 2) **God's Sovereign will** – that which God does by His own choosing.
- 3) **God's individual will** – that which God desires for each person on an individual basis.

Many people believe that God has a plan for their lives that has been predetermined by God and that if they miss that plan, then they will have de-railed God's plan and missed out on all that God had in store for them.

Illus – “I know the plans that I have for you,” says the Lord, plans for good and not for evil.” Jer 29:11.

When Jon Courson heard that his wife was killed...

Yet at the same time, we know that all things are already known by God (our days are already written in a book).

It is important to remember that at the same time two things are true; to God the future is history, and He lives and interacts with is in real time. James 4:13-16.

C. Paul is telling us in verse 17 that to be wise, we should understand God's will.

- Here Paul is referring to God's moral will.

III. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

A. Paul is contrasting filled with “spirits” (wine) against being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Illus – At Pentecost, some were accusing the disciples of having too much wine.

Illus – Some today believe that in order to show that they are filled with the Spirit, they need to act like they are drunk with wine. This is called, “missing the point.”

- There are many contrasts and comparisons of wine and the Holy Spirit.
 - **Both affect your mind, speech, and your walk.**
 - **Both are unnatural.**
 - **With wine there is a loss of self-control, with the Holy Spirit, self-control is increased.**

B. Paul gives several examples of what it means to be filled with the Spirit.

- In how we speak to one another.
- In our relationship to the Father.
- In always giving thanks for all things.
- In being subject to one another.

Conclusion

Paul's instructions for us in how to walk are not just written because they are God's will, but because they are the very best for us. God want us to have life and have it abundantly.