

FBC Devotion Tuesday January 5 2021 Ephesians 5:15-17 Be Careful

“So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.” (NLT)

In our scripture this morning, the Apostle Paul writing to the church in Ephesus, gives us good advice as we enter another New Year - **“Be careful how you live your life and don’t be foolish.”**

“Be Careful!” How many times have you heard those words? I have no idea how many times my mother said those two words to me as I was growing up. I can tell you it was a lot of times. And I know she said those words simply because she loved me. That’s why Paul is saying it here. He loves these people. He wants the very best for them. He cares about their well-being.

I don’t remember so much the times when I heeded Mum’s advice as when I didn’t. We often exhort each other with, **“You be careful or take care!”**

The first thing we see here is that we’re to live with wisdom.

You know folks; sometimes we find wisdom in the strangest of places. I’m sure you’ve heard the phrase **“out of the mouths of babes”**. Listen to the wisdom of some of these children;

- Patrick, age 10, said, “Never trust a dog to watch your food.”
- Michael, 14, said, “When your dad is mad and asks you, “Do I look stupid?” don’t answer him.”

True wisdom knows that there are absolute truths in our world. If we’re to live wisely in this New Year, let’s embrace this truth; **the ultimate truth**, that Jesus Christ, God himself, came to earth to become the payment for our sin. **Paul writes, be careful how you live, don’t live foolishly.**

Not only are we to live wisely, we’re also to live making the most of every opportunity to serve the Lord. Verse 16 says: **Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.** Life is very very short, and we only have so many opportunities that come our way.

Paul exhorts us to live an opportunistic life, to be expecting God not only to give us opportunities for service, but to make the most of those opportunities.

Verse 17: **Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. i.e.: live in and know Gods will by listening to His voice.**

I can almost hear you saying, that’s easy to say Alex, but hard to do. How can I know God’s will? We have to tune out all the clatter around us and listen to God. God will speak to us through the study of His handbook for Christians - The Bible. God will speak to us through sermons. God will speak to us through music and praise.

God will speak to us through the Holy Spirit. God will speak to us through the wise counsel of other believers. God will speak to us when we’re quiet and alone with Him. In this New Year, be careful how you live, live wisely making the most of every opportunity God gives you, and live in God’s will by listening to His voice. **Happy New Year everyone!**