

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Prison Letters
Ephesians 5:15-21

Last time...living in perilous times, spiritually fierce times in a world in upheaval,
How do we keep pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in
Christ Jesus?
How to keep our bearings?

We follow Jesus

1. walking worthy of the calling of God with lowliness, meekness, and boldness
2. walking not as unbelievers do in the depravity of their minds
3. walking in love as Jesus loved us
4. walking as children of Light

This time...we follow Jesus by walking circumspectly, redeeming the time

Eph 5:15-21

v15 Following Jesus, walk circumspectly...live a lifestyle before God and man

- diligently, overlooking nothing
Matt 2:8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search **diligently** for the young child; and when ye have found *him*, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.
- carefully, always on guard
Ex 23:13 And in all *things* that I have said unto you be **circumspect**: and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth.
- perfectly, without any doubt
Luke 1:3 It seemed good to me also, having had **perfect** understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus
1 Thes 5:2 For yourselves know **perfectly** that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

not this but that
not as fools but as wise

Walk no more like Eph 2:1-3

But walk with the Living God, the God of the Living
Love/obey/serve the Lord

Ps 101

- behaving wisely
- living in a perfect way with a perfect heart
- looking upon no wickedness
- avoiding all wickedness
- departing from pride
- not abiding deceit and dishonesty and lies

Ps 1

The fool says in his heart that there is no God (Ps 53:1)

The fool fights against the will of Almighty God (1 Sam 26:21)

The fool shall be a servant to the wise in heart (Prov 11:29b)

The fool trusts in his wealth but, like the brute beast, perishes (Ps 49:6-14)

The fool walks in darkness (Eccl 2:14)

The fool lives a wasted life, trashing a precious and priceless gift from the Creator

Wisdom is the Word of God

Prov 9:10 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.

The Word of God is wisdom

1 Cor 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Deceit and delusion come from the devil

The world and the flesh feed on confusion and darkness and suffers delusion

Delusion: It is legally and morally right to slaughter defenseless babies in their mother's wombs

Being enshrined in State Constitutions, even in "conservative" states

"Death to Babies" is the defining election issue in this nation

Delusion: Radical Islam

A. rallying chant of "From the River to the Sea"

i.e. the annihilation of

- Israel as a nation
- Jews

A delusion because it is...impossible!

Jer 31:35-37

Jer 33:19-26

Is this the strong delusion championed by the counterfeit christ?

2 Thes 2:1-12

B. covenant with death for themselves!

“We want to be martyrs!”

Allah’s/Satan’s promised Paradise is hell in the Bible

Parents help and celebrate their sons and daughters as such.

The children of the devil are as the devil – deluded

Is 14:12-17

C. Follow the money to find the fools that believe the delusion

The spirit of Jew-hatred in US Congress, the “Squad”,

receives many thousands of \$\$\$ from non-profits that help
fund Hamas

Consider all the Jew-hatred on American university campuses

American universities have received \$13 BILLION + from Muslim
nations

American universities are silent, unwilling to condemn the
Jew-hatred demonstrations of the students

The God of Israel looks down and sees

1. Spiritual wickedness in high places in USA Gov’t
2. American universities are covetous, love money
3. Radical Muslims that hate Jews giving money to both

Luke 16:15 **that which is highly esteemed among men is
abomination in the sight of God.**

Prov 11:4 Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but
righteousness delivereth from death.

American universities are losing millions from Jewish billionaires

American universities are producing the next generation of
“leaders” in USA, leaders with the worldview of
“the Squad”...the minority will be the majority in Congress

The USA is under judgment and looks like it will collapse from
within

Just follow the money to find the fools that believe the delusion

Delusion: There are more than 2 genders, gender is fluid and a choice of man

Delusion: Cities will be safer and racism will end if we “Defund the Police”

Delusion leads to death

Fools are pro-death and the deluded are all around us, we are like a lily among
thorns (Song of Solomon 2)

v16 We live circumspectly/diligently/carefully/perfectly as wise
Redeeming the time

- not wasting any time
Time is perishable, like unsold seats on an airline flight
Once it is gone, it can never come back
Therefore time is a most precious gift of God,
demanding wise, Godly stewardship
- taking advantage of every opportunity to love/obey/serve the Lord
 - Who has purchased with His blood (Acts 20:28)
 - we are not our own (1 Cor 6:19-20)

The wise “take inventory” of each day –
how much time was wisely spent and how much time was wasted?

We have but one life, and it is a vapor

James 4:14 For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Job 14:1 Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble.

Ps 103:15-16 *As for* man, his days *are* as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

Scripture exhorts us to be wise with the gift of time

Ps 90:10-12 The days of our years *are* threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength *they be* fourscore years, yet *is* their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, *so is* thy wrath. So teach *us* to number our days, that we may apply *our* hearts unto wisdom.

70 years = 25,567 days

80 years = 29,220 days

As of today, the number of my days = 25,026

I am running out of time!

Who knows how long I will be healthy?

Ps 102:11 My days *are* like a shadow that inclineth; and I am withered like grass.

Does that bum me out?

No! 2 Cor 5:8, PTL!

But it does create urgency and imminency!

The wise take every opportunity to love/obey/serve the Lord (Matt 22:36-40),
pursuing the Truth

The fool wastes time by loving/serving Self and pursuing lies

In all of our futures is the judgment seat of Christ where our lives, our “time”,
will be refined by fire

1 Cor 3:12-15 wood, hay, stubble...gold, silver, precious jewels

Then comes a crown...to be thrown at Jesus’ feet

Is He not worthy of a glorious crown that I place at His feet?

To strengthen our physical bodies that have the lifespan of vapor, we take advantage of
Physical Therapy

Physical therapy addresses the illnesses or injuries that limit a person's abilities to
move and perform normal functional activities in their daily lives.

PT treatment plans include specific exercises, manual therapy and manipulation,
mechanical devices such as traction, education, heat, cold, sound waves

PT treatment plans help people recover from surgical procedures and help people
avoid surgical procedures in the future

PTs work to prevent the loss of mobility before it occurs by developing fitness
programs for healthier and more active lifestyles that are inhibited by
aging, injury, disease, or environmental factors

All the more important, to strengthen our spiritual bodies that have the lifespan of
eternity, we must take advantage of Spiritual Therapy

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and
fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Take inventory of the things and people that “steal” precious, unrecoverable time,
keeping you from

- daily Bible reading/meditation/study
- Sunday morning worship
- Bible Studies
- fellowship with the Body of believers
- celebrating the Lord’s Table with the Family of God
- prayer for others and for yourself

Put in place a “treatment plan” to increase your spiritual strength

Spiritual stretching, like physical stretching, is not comfortable but it is
strengthening

Our Father wants His kids to be strong not weak...especially in these days!

Because the days are evil!
2 Tim 3:13

Suddenly and explosively, the boldness of evil has mushroomed all around us
Lawlessness as in the Days of Noah
Bold Jew-haters tearing down the USA flag on Veteran's Day in NYC
Theft that goes unresisted and unpunished
Is 5:20

Bold, shameless sexual perversion (LGBTQ+/Trans/Drag) as in the Days of Lot

Deception, the hallmark of the "beginning of sorrows"

Jew-hatred worldwide
The Jew-hatred marches in Western Civilization are among the many on
the broad way to destruction

Pro-Death...the elections this past week
If your hope is politics or the Republican Party, yours is a misplaced hope
USA is very clearly Pro-death
Abortion is more important than inflation, the economy, and every
other issue in State and Federal elections
Red States are enshrining abortion in their State Constitutions
Republicans will take note, will continue to seek for power,
will also abandon the unborn in their quest for political
power

Prov 8:36b all they that hate me love death.
Micah 2:1-3 Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds!
when the morning is light, they practice it, because it is in the
power of their hand. And they covet fields, and take *them* by
violence; and houses, and take *them* away: so they oppress a man
and his house, even a man and his heritage. Therefore thus saith
the LORD; Behold, against this family do I devise an evil, from
which ye shall not remove your necks; neither shall ye go
haughtily: for this time *is* evil.

If you could not see it before I pray to God that you see it now –

1. We the children of light are behind enemy lines and the fierce spiritual battle is raging!!!
2. We very well may be witnessing the last generation before the worldwide judgment of God
3. Let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as we see The Day approaching!

v17 Therefore, not this but that
 not unwise but understanding the will of the Lord

Not unwise, deceived, deluded, confused, ignorant, stupid, having zero common sense
Not understanding the times

un-1Chron 12:32a And of the children of Issachar, *which were men* that
 had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought
 to do

Matt 16:3b O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can
 ye not discern the signs of the times? (Jesus' 1st Coming)

Eccl 9:12 For (a spiritually undiscerned) man also knoweth not his
 time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the
 birds that are caught in the snare; so *are* the sons of men
 snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.

The only way to understand the times is to understand the Word of God

But understanding the will of the Lord

To understand the will of the Lord, one must know the Lord

Jer 9:24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth
 and knoweth me, that I *am* the LORD which exercise
 lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth:
 for in these *things* I delight, saith the LORD.

Ps 103:8-18

Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and
 power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure
 they are and were created.

To understand the will of the Lord, one must know the Word of God

2 Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that
 needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of
 truth.

Neh 8:8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and
 gave the sense, and caused *them* to understand the reading.

Neh 8:12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and
 to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had
 understood the words that were declared unto them.

To understand the will of the Lord, one must have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church

Jesus 8x He said, “**He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.**”

Revelation 7 Letters to the 7 Churches (all the church in all times)

He said, “**He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**”

In these spiritually fierce times, what is the will of the Lord?

1 Tim 2:1-6

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Deut 30:19-20 I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live. That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, *and* that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he *is* thy life, and the length of thy days

Eccl 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man

John 13:34-35 **A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

John 8:31-32 **If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**

Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Heb 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith.

Luke 21:34-36 **And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and *so* that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.**

v18 Not this but that
not drunk with wine but filled with the Spirit

Not drunk with wine..."under the influence"

Any intoxicating beverage whose nature has been corrupted by leaven and death
to produce a counterfeit "high" that dulls the mind, clouds the eyes,
slurs the speech, distorts perception, and leads to excess/riot

It is foolishness

Deut 29:19 And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this
curse (consequences of violating the Word of God), that he
bless himself in his heart (I'm OK, that won't happen to
me) , saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the
imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst:

"Nabal", husband of Abigail (1 Sam 25)

But filled with the Spirit

The true "high"...Spirit-filled and Spirit-led, useful in the hands of God,
"under the influence of God",

1 Peter 4:1-7

And "under the influence of God"...

v19 Speak as Jesus speaks
Speak as the Father speaks
Speak as the Holy Spirit speaks

Speak to each other, the Family of God
spiritually, not worldly or secularly
encouraging, edifying, comforting, exhorting...pointing each other to Jesus!
Especially as we see the Day approaching!

And "under the influence of God"...

v20 Giving thanks
When: always
every day is Thanksgiving
For What: for all things
no exceptions, good/bad/indifferent
Rom 8:16-39
Even if life is treating you like
• Job (Job 38-42)
• Jeremiah (Jer 20:7-13)
• David (Psalms during Saul's reign)
To Whom: unto God the Father
the overarching Relationship now and forever
How: in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
character/nature...as Jesus gave thanks always
1 Thes 5:16-24

And "under the influence of God"...

v21 Submitting one to another

God is the God of order, He is not the author of confusion
Order requires humility and submission

Look to Jesus

Matt 20:26-28 *whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;
And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:
Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to
minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

Matt 11:28-30 *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will
give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am
meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

We take His yoke as an ox (bondservant), not as stiff-necked (useless)

Luke 22:42 *not my will, but thine, be done.*
during His greatest trial in Gethsemane

We follow Jesus

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Rom 12:3 | For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think <i>of himself</i> more highly than he ought to think |
| Rom 12:10 | <i>Be</i> kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; |
| Rom 12:16 | <i>Be</i> of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. |
| Phil 2:3 | <i>Let</i> nothing <i>be done</i> through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. |

Jesus Christ is to be the foundation of every relationship we have

Ground Zero: marriage

Next week...

In a deluded world of darkness that has made a covenant with death, how we finish well our course:

<u>Not this</u>	<u>but that</u>
as fools	as wise
unwise	understanding the will of the Lord
drunk with wine	filled with the Spirit

Living a lifestyle “under the influence of God” of

- filled with and led by the Spirit
- giving thanks for all things
- submitting one to another