

EPHESIANS
WALK CAREFULLY
Tuesday, September 29
Reading: Ephesians 5:15-21

***Ephesians 5:15** Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.*

Paul gives us directions for how to “live as children of light.” ‘Careful’ means accurate and diligent. We must be vigilant so that our lives bring honor and glory to the Lord. His first instruction is to **MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY** (5:15-16). It is urgent that believers live and share the gospel because of the growing influence of evil. God puts many opportunities in our path each day (see 2:10) and we must take advantage of them for the glory of God. Elsewhere Paul wrote, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Galatians 6:10).

Next believers must **UNDERSTAND GOD’S WILL** (5:17). The will of God is not some mystery that we must search out. He has revealed the basics of His will in the Bible. Believers must not waste time in unwise activities. Our life pursuit should be to know God and doing what He commands.

Third, believers are to **BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT** (5:18-21). Paul compares a Spirit-filled believer to one filled with wine. A drunken person is “controlled” by the alcohol in their body. Their actions make it obvious to everyone that they are intoxicated. Paul says that instead of being drunk with wine which will only ruin their life, believers are to be filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit to the extent that everyone can see the impact of His presence in their lives. It will reveal itself in a heart of praise and worship, a heart of thankfulness, and a heart of submission.

LESSON ONE: “Understand What the Lord’s Will Is.” The Bible says a lot about what God’s will is. It is God’s will that we live holy lives (1 Thessalonians 4:3), that we be thankful (1 Thessalonians 5:18), that we do good in the face of an evil world (1 Peter 2:13-17). We can know His will as our minds are renewed in the image of Christ (Romans 12:2). We are told to persevere as we do God’s will (Hebrews 10:36) and do God’s will from the heart (Ephesians 6:6). The many commands of Scripture reveal to us God’s will. When we are doing what we know God wants and are relying on the Holy Spirit to guide us then, God’s will becomes evident to us. What struggles have you had in determining God’s will? Have you been doing what the Bible clearly tells us is God’s will? If we don’t obey in what we know, how can God reveal His will more deeply to us!

LESSON TWO: “Psalms, Hymns, and Songs from the Spirit.” Music has become a big “divider” in church culture today. Christians get divided over contemporary or traditional music, instruments, and a host of other preferences. However, Paul reminds us that all music that flows from a heart filled with the Holy Spirit is appropriate for worship. It may not be the “style” you enjoy, but it all can be used by the Spirit to lift up our hearts to the Lord. If you don’t like the music, listen to the words. Does it uplift the name of Jesus and teach us how to live for Him? At your next worship service, take the time to meditate on what the songwriter is saying. Then “sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.”