

Text: Ephesians 5:15-21

Title: Making the Most of It

ETS: Paul warned the Ephesians to guard their conduct in the evil days in which they lived.

ESS: We, too, live in evil days, and we have to make the most of the time that we have for the sake of Christ.

OSS: I want the hearer to pay attention to how they live.

Question: How do we make the most of the time that we have for the sake of Christ?

Unifying Word: Principles

INTRODUCTION

OUTLINE

- I. Be intentional with our lives. (vss. 15-18b)
 - A. Paul told the Ephesians that because of the days they were in they had to live carefully.
 - B. What does it look like to live carefully in Christ?
 1. Walk in wisdom.
 - James 3:13- *Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.*
 - James 1:5- *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.*
 2. Be mindful of the time in which we live.
 3. Seek the will of God.
 - Deuteronomy 4:29-31- *But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. ³⁰ When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the LORD your God and obey his voice. ³¹ For the LORD your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.*
 4. Be careful of what you allow to control you.
 - Proverbs 23:29-35- *Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? ³⁰ Those who tarry long over wine; those who go to try mixed wine. ³¹ Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. ³² In the end it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder. ³³ Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart utter perverse things. ³⁴ You will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, like one who lies on the top of a mast. ³⁵ "They struck me," you will say, "but I was not hurt; they beat me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake? I must have another drink."*

- C. In the days in which we live, it is more important than ever that we live intentionally for Christ.
- II. Be filled with the Holy Spirit. (vss. 18c-21)
- A. The main focus of Paul's directives to the Ephesians was to live a Spirit-filled life as it related to their relationships.
- B. How is a Spirit-filled life reflected in our relationships?
1. A Spirit-filled life is reflected in the way we encourage one another.
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:11- ***Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.***
 2. A Spirit-filled life is reflected in the way we worship personally.
 3. A Spirit-filled life is reflected in a thankful attitude towards God.
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:18- ***give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.***
 4. A Spirit-filled life is reflected in the way we submit to one another.
 - Romans 14:19- ***So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.***
- C. We live in a time when we cannot be idle in our relationship with Christ; we have to make the most of the time we have.

CONCLUSION