

Ephesians 5:6-9

Today's passage is a straightforward plea for Christians to know and walk in the truth. The connection between this particular passage and last week's is quite important. We are to be faithful to avoid foolish talk, remain thankful to the Lord, abstain from sexual immorality and the like AS we grow in the truth which allows us to walk in the light of the Gospel of Christ.

1. The process of holiness

- a. I want to fixate on verse 9 in our study because I think that the connection that is made in this particular portion of the passage is profoundly important and often neglected
- b. Paul utilizes the term "fruit" here
 - i. This is a familiar, biblical metaphor for sanctification
 - ii. Essentially, the fruit of our salvation is righteousness manifested in obedience and Christlikeness
- c. The point is that fruit is the product of something or someone
- d. In this case, notice that Paul says the fruit of the "light" is found in all that is good and right and true
 - i. Essentially, Paul is saying that those who walk in the "light" are those who are going to experience and produce the fruit of holiness
 - ii. Stated differently, there is no way to holiness without the truth!

2. A stark warning

- a. The above statement helps us understand why Paul would pivot from holy acts to admonitions to avoid false doctrine and walk in the truth
- b. Those who believe the wrong things will inevitably wander and the fruit of their wandering won't be holiness!
 - i. This is part of why John the Baptist reminds us that you will know the people of God "by their fruits"
 - ii. Their doctrine and their convictions will be born out in their actions
 - iii. The same is true for you
- c. If you are living in sin, the issue is deeper than your behavior
 - i. Your behavior is a symptom of the problem and the problem is that you are planted in falsehood which always renders rotten fruit
- d. Some people like to think that biblical doctrine is secondary and that "real life" takes precedence but this is foolish

3. A clear alternative

- a. Those who should expect to realize the fruit of the light (all that is good and right and true) are those who are walking in the light... are you?

- b. Have you been saved by Christ? If so, then He has given you eyes to see and the light of His glory has allowed you to see the world in a totally different way
- c. Have you been pursuing the truth in your private life and are you intently listening in our corporate gatherings? If so, then you should have a hunger for the truth and a life that demonstrates the transformation that only Christ can achieve
- d. Paul's simple point in this passage is that we have been given the revelation of Christ and this should alter the way we walk and those who walk in a different direction than the lost should expect to arrive at a different, better, destination
 - i. Does your lifestyle look all that dissimilar from the world's?
 - ii. Would people know that you are a Christians by your convictions?
 - iii. Do you love what the world hates?
 - iv. Are you constantly aware of the ways that the world attempts to twist the truth?
 - v. Are you growing in your wisdom and understanding?
 - vi. Do you see evidence that Christ is changing you by transformed affections and actions?
- e. If so, then celebrate!
- f. If not, then return to the truth as the truth (and the truth alone) will set you free!