

# Walking Wisely

**TEXT:** Eph. 5:15-21

## **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. THE CHRISTIAN HAS UNDERGONE A GREAT CHANGE IN CHARACTER AND BEHAVIOR.
  - B. IN OUR TEXT WE ARE TOLD TO THEREFORE **WALK WISELY** AND **CAREFULLY** SO THAT THESE CHANGES WILL BE EFFECTED IN OUR LIVES.
- I. WE ARE TO LOOK CAREFULLY HOW WE WALK.**
- A. **CIRCUMSPECTLY** – **KJV**; ACCURATELY – **Literal**.
  - B. OUR WALK IS TO BE IN **WISDOM** (vs. 15).
    - 1. Not in our own wisdom (**Prov. 14:25**; **Jer. 10:23**).
    - 2. God’s wisdom is much greater than our own (**1 Cor. 3:18-21**).
    - 3. The wisdom of God is seen in the gospel (**1 Cor. 1:22-24**).
    - 4. How are the wise characterized? (**James 3:13, 17-18**).
    - 5. Where does wisdom begin? (**Prov. 1:7**)
  - C. WE ARE **TO REDEEM THE TIME** (vs. 16).
    - 1. **ftnote**. – “buying up the opportunity.” Taking advantage of the present; using the time and opportunities that we have.
    - 2. We don’t know how much time we have.
      - a. The Lord may come (**2 Pet. 3:10**).
      - b. We may die (**James 4:13-14**).
    - 3. The man who knows God’s will, but ignores it is without excuse (**James 4:17**).
    - 4. Therefore we ought to do what we can now (**2 Cor. 6:2**).
  - D. WE ARE **NOT TO BE FOOLISH BUT UNDERSTANDING** (vs. 17).
    - 1. We are to be of a disposition to follow God’s will with open minds.
    - 2. The foolish don’t understand. Why not? (**1 Cor. 2:14**).
    - 3. Understanding comes from experience and application (**Heb. 5:14**; **Phil. 1:9-11**).
    - 4. In the past they were darkened in their understanding (**Eph. 4:17-18**).
- II. OUR LIVES AND MOTIVATIONS ARE CONTRASTED WITH THE OLD MAN (vs. 18-21).**
- A. THE OLD MAN IS **FILLED AND MOTIVATED WITH WINE**.
    - 1. The idea has to do with the **fulfilling of fleshly appetites, and not just wine**.
    - 2. Wherein is excess (riot) **Eph 5:18**; Literally, "unsavingness." (**Vincent**)  
“an abandoned, dissolute, life; **profligacy**, prodigality **Eph 5:18**” (**Thayer**).
  - B. THE NEW MAN IS **FILLED WITH AND MOTIVATED BY THE SPIRIT**.
    - 1. The result? (**Gal. 5:22-24**).
    - 2. **ftnote**. “in spirit.” In contrast to serving fleshly appetites (**Matt. 6:33**; **2 Cor. 4:18**).
  - C. THE RESULT OF SERVING THE SPIRIT RATHER THAN THE FLESH IS **ENGAGING IN SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES AND ATTITUDES**.
    - 1. Serving the Spirit results in **worshipful singing** (vs. 19).
      - a. We are to sing to one another (**Col. 3:16**).
        - Our songs should be understandable and scriptural.
        - Our purpose is to teach and admonish – not entertain!

- b. To the Lord (**John 4:24**).
  - In spirit and truth.
  - Not just for enjoyment

### **Matt. 15:7-9**

- 2. Serving the Spirit results in **appreciation** (**vs. 20**).
  - a. All good things come from God (**James 1:17**).
  - b. They are ours through Christ (**Eph. 1:3**).
  - c. “With thanksgiving” (**Phil. 4:6; Col. 3:17**).
- 3. Serving the Spirit results in **servng one another** (**vs. 21**).
  - a. This means putting others first (**Phil. 2:1-4**).
  - b. The fear of Christ moves us thus.

### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. CHRISTIANS MUST BE CAREFUL HOW THEY LIVE.
- B. A WISE MAN WILL REDEEM THE TIME BY SERVING GOD.
- C. WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT OF ME?