

THE WALK OF WISDOM

Key Verse: Ephesians 5:15-17

Key Thought: Walking In Wisdom Requires Relationship with God

“In Christ” is one of the most common expressions in Paul’s writings. He used the word in Greek (en Christo) 73 times and in the Lord (en Kyrio) 45 times. In *Romans 6* Paul explains that ***“through faith we die with Christ are buried with him and rise with him to a new life. Our old self is left in the grave and Christ life becomes our life.”*** We see in the beginning of Ephesians 4:1 and continuing through 5:14, the Apostle Paul has challenged the church concerning their walk before the Lord. We have been commanded:

Ephesians 4:1-2 - To walk in Humility

Ephesians 4:4-13 - To walk in Unity

Ephesians 4:17-32 - To walk in Separation

Ephesians 4:14-16; 5:1-2 - To walk in Love

Ephesians 5:3-14 - To walk in Light

Now, we are challenged to add to those virtues the quality of wisdom.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Proverbs 1:7

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

James 1:5

The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

Proverbs 4:7

. The word “wisdom”, in our language means, **“knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action.”** In Scripture, it carries the idea of understanding the will of God as it is revealed in His Word, coupled with the desire to live it out.

So, the call here is for believers to yield to the Word of God in our daily walk. We are to hear His voice, as it is revealed in His Word, then we are to live out that revealed Word moment by moment. In this passage, Paul gives us some insights into what The Walk of Wisdom is supposed to look like. Let’s look at these insights and learn what “The Walk of Wisdom” is, and how we can activate it in our lives.

I. IT IS A DILIGENT WALK

The wise walk is clearly defined in this verse. Paul calls upon to the church to “*see then that ye walk circumspectly.*”

- The word “*see*” means to “*observe.*”
- The word “*circumspectly*” carries the idea of being “*diligent, accurate, and precise.*”
- The command is for us to “*give attention to the way we walk in this world*”, so that we “*walk accurately and precisely.*”

If you’ve ever seen anyone walk a tightrope, then you know what Paul is referring to here. The person on the tightrope watches where they place each step. The least deviation or inaccuracy in their footing would result in a certain fall.

As believers, we must give due diligence to every step we take in this world. To do less is to guarantee that we will fall into the trap of the enemy. I would remind you that we have an enemy that is set on our destruction. He sets traps for us and lies in wait to attack us and to destroy our walk with the Lord.

“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed,”

James 1:14

The phrase “*drawn away*,” means “*to lure prey from its hiding place.*” Like a hunter sets a trap to catch an animal, Satan does all he can to lure us away from the place of safety and closeness to the Lord. He seeks to lure us into sin.

The word “*enticed*,” means, “*to catch by bait.*” If you are going to bait deer, you don’t use dead fish. You must use corn or apples, or something else that is attractive to the animal. Satan knows what makes us tick. He knows what is attractive to us. Like a hunter who studies his prey, Satan studies us to see what we like, and he baits his traps accordingly.

Satan is a treacherous and very dangerous enemy. Yet, the only reason he has any power at all to deceive and destroy us is due to the sin that dwells within each of our hearts. As James says, we are “*drawn away of*” our “*own lusts.*” Satan is only able to tempt us to sin eternally, because the will and ability to sin already exist within our hearts. Every time we fall into sin, it is only because we take the bait and fall into the devil’s snare.

Have you ever done something you know is wrong and immediately felt stupid because of it? We all have, and we should! The only reason we did it was because we fell for the deception. We were tricked. We didn’t watch our step and we fell into the trap.

So, knowing the deceitfulness of the enemy, and the wickedness of our own hearts, Paul warns us to watch every step we take, because each step is filled with danger, especially in this world.

We are counseled to “*walk...not as fools, but as wise.*” We are not to walk like the world around us. They stumble around in the darkness of their depraved condition, and they take no heed to where the next foot will fall. We are not so blind. We have been redeemed. We have been made alive. We have been given the Spirit of God. We have been given the light of the Word of God. We do not stumble about like a blind man, but we have been equipped to walk accurately, placing each step precisely where it pleases the Lord and leads us closer to Him.

What a blessing it is to know that we do not have to fall for the deceptions of Satan. We do not have to be ensnared in his traps. Through the help of the Holy Spirit, every subtle maneuver of the enemy is painted with the light of Heaven. We do not have to yield to his devices. We do not have to walk his way. We do not have to find ourselves overcome by his schemes. Our Lord has made us wiser than that. He has given us all we need to be able to walk in His will for His glory.

“As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.”

1 John 2:27 NIV

That is not to say that we do not grow. We do because sanctification is a progressive reality. It does mean, however, that if we would listen to the Holy Spirit and stop sniffing around the traps Satan has laid for us, we would come out on top far more often than we do.

Remember, Christ has made you wise.

II. IT IS A DISCERNING WALK

We are to walk accurately, literally, perfectly in this world, but we are also to walk with discernment.

The Lord here says we are to be “*redeeming the time...*”

- The word “*redeeming*” means “*to buy up; to deliver from loss.*” It was used in that culture of “*purchasing a slave in order to set the slave free.*”
- The word “*time*” does not speak of “*clock time*”. It does not speak of minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years. The word he uses here is a word that speaks of a “*measured allotment of time.*” Paul is talking about the small window of time we have in this world. In other words, we are to “*deliver the allotted time we have been given in this world from loss.*”

This phrase speaks about our walk with the Lord. It challenges us “*to make good use of every opportunity for serving the Lord.*” Peter says it this way:

“Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.”

1 Peter 1:17

The Lord has determined the boundaries of our lives. We will not live one minute more or one minute less, than the time we have been allotted by the Lord.

***“Show me, Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days;
let me know how fleeting my life is.”***

Psalms 39:4

You and I have been given a short window of time to live in the world. At best, our lives are a “*vapor*,” James 4:14. We are here just *a few days*.. We need to make the most of every opportunity we are given to serve the Lord.

- Take the time to pray.
- Take the time to worship.
- Take the time to share the Gospel.
- Take the time to be holy.
- Take the time to read the Bible.
- Take the time to honor the Lord every minute of every day.

Paul tells us that we should salvage the time we have been given, because “*the days are evil*.” The word evil comes from the same word that gives us our word “*pornographic*.” The days are wicked, evil and filled with every kind of sin.

God has placed us here to be light to a world trapped in darkness. We are His “*ambassadors*.” He has given us a window of time in this evil world to serve Him, walk for Him and bring glory to His name. So, as we walk through this world, we are to recognize the evil around us, as well as the opportunities the Lord has given us to serve Him. We are to redeem those opportunities to make our lives count for the glory of God.

One day we will all leave this world. When it comes time for you to die, what kind of legacy will you leave behind? I pray that my life produces a legacy. I want to “*buy up the opportunities*” the Lord gives me.

I would remind you that the word “*redeeming*” refers to “*buying a slave in order to set that slave free*.” It also has the idea of “*saving it from loss*.” We are all slaves to time. We can either lose that time, and have it gone forever, or we can redeem that time and make it count for the glory of God.

The moments of our lives either serve to glorify God, or they are lost forever, and thus they glorify the devil. Let's buy up the time and deliver our moments from the oppression of death and sin, making every opportunity count to the glory of God.

III. IT IS A DEFINITE WALK

Finally, Paul says, *“Therefore do not be unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”* The word *“unwise”* means *“to be stupid, or ignorant.”* It refers to a person who *“thinks himself wise when actually he knows nothing.”* If you take this verse in connection with the two that precede it, you have Paul saying, *“Don't run through this world like an idiot.”*

If we are not careful, we will fall into the trap of business. We will allow the enemy to fill our calendar with good things, that we end up frantically running from one activity to the next, all the while missing out on what really matters in this life. God did not create us or save us to live like we do.

We run here and there with our calendars, our smartphones, our schedules, thinking we must do all those things for ourselves, and for others, not realizing that Satan has baited the trap, and we have taken the bait. We allow ourselves to get so busy doing all the things we do that we don't have the time to enjoy the Lord who saved us.

I am preaching to myself here also, but we need to learn to say, **“NO.”** It's hard to do, but it must be done. I would also say, that if we truly love others, we will not make unrealistic demands on their time.

Instead of running through life like a maniac, we are counseled to be “*understanding*” of “*what the will of the Lord is.*” How do we understand the will of the Lord? The basic answer is that we find the will of God in the principals taught in the Scriptures. The Word of God reveals the will of God. We must slow down long enough to read the Word of God, to meditate on it, to understand it. We must take time for the Bible; or we will let the moments of our lives slip through our fingers and amount to little in the work of the Lord.

Think of how foolish we are in this matter. We send our kids to school to help them learn, but we don’t take the time to teach them the book written by the wisest man in the universe. It would be a shame for you to send your child from your home to a college to be educated in the wisdom of men, if they left your home ignorant of the Word of God.

We strive to learn all sorts of things, glorying in our knowledge, while we do not take the time to learn from the fountain of all wisdom, the Lord Himself. The lack of Biblical knowledge in the average church is astonishing. Our ignorance is proven by the things church members believe and the things they say. That kind of ignorance does not have to be. What a tragedy!

God has given us His Word. It is without error. It is infallible. It is inspired, and it is eternal. It is food for the soul. When we read the Bible, we are exposed to the very mind of God Himself. We need to read it a lot and read it often. We need to be people of The Word, knowing its Author intimately, and understanding its message clearly. There is no excuse for any believer, who owns a Bible, and who can read it, being ignorant of the Word of God.

It is our ignorance of the Word that explains the problems we have with sin. It is our ignorance of the Word of God that explains the problems we have in our relationships.

It is our ignorance of the Word of God that explains why our churches are lacking power, empty of life, and dying on the vine. We need to repent of our neglect of the Word of God and pick up our Bibles and read. Knowing the Bible settles us. It gives us peace, hope, help and strength. It helps us know the God of Heaven and knowing Him teaches us how to walk in this world. Knowing Him teaches us how to make our lives count for God's glory. Do you have a Bible? Read it! Learn it! Love it! Live it!

Your Bible will keep you from being spiritually unwise . It will make you wise in the ways of the Lord, and it will open your eyes to the schemes of the enemy.

In closing, I want you to realize you do not have to live like the world around you. Your life can count and leave a legacy behind when you leave this world. You do not have to be spiritually deceived and ignorant or Satan. We can walk in wisdom, if we will follow the clear guidelines given to us in the Word of God. If we will simply take His Word and make it the wheel of our lives, we will sail a straight course through this world. We will live a life that honors God and gives light to the world around us.

I will close with a couple of questions:

How is your walk with the Lord?

Are you walking in wisdom, or are you walking in ignorance?

How is your relationship with the Word of God?

Do you read it? Do you live it?