

SERMON:

OR:

Walking in Wisdom: Don't Waste Your Life **Living in Light of the Resurrection**

Ephesians 5:15-21

EPHESIANS: SUMMARY STATEMENT

The reconciling wisdom of God has been gloriously displayed in Christ, calling us to walk by grace in the peace He has given us.

OUTLINE – FIRST HALF

1. **To the Praise of His Glory (Ephesians 1)** *The Wonder of Salvation*
 - Praising His Glory: The Wonder of Sovereign Redemption
 - Praising His Glory: The Wonder of Unmerited Riches
 - Let Us See Glory! A Prayer of Wonder

2. **You Were... But Now ... (Ephesians 2)** *The Unity of Salvation*
 - Dead Men Walking: Who You Were
 - Dead Men Walking: Who God Is
 - The Outcast Comes Home: Peace by the Blood
 - The Outcast Comes Home: A New Family and Temple

3. **The Manifold Wisdom of God (Ephesians 3)** *The Wisdom of Salvation*
 - A Wondrous Mystery: The Unity of the Gospel
 - A Wondrous Wisdom: The Gospel and the Church
 - Wondering at Wisdom: A Prayer of Wonder

OUTLINE – SECOND HALF

4. Walking with God According to Our Calling (*Ephesians 4:1-5:21*)

- Walking in Wonder: Living in Light of Our Calling
- Walking in Unison: Living Our Calling in Community
- Walking in Distinction: Living in Contradiction to the World
- Walking in Love: Imitators of God
- Walking in Light: Hating Deeds of Darkness
- Walking in Wisdom: Rejoicing in Christ

5. Submitting to Each Other in Honor of Christ (*Ephesians 5:22-6:9*)

- Walking in Submission: Testifying to the Worth of Christ
- Walking in Love: Displaying the Glory of Christ
- Walking in Obedience: Being a Child of God

6. Resisting the Devil by the Power of God (*Ephesians 6:10-20*)

- Walking in Strength: Taking Battle to the Enemy
- Walking in Armor: Using What God has Provided
- Walking in Prayer: Calling on God to Provide

THEME 3 OF EPHESIANS: WALKING

1. Theology

- Ephesians 2:1-2 – As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to *walk*
- Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance that we should *walk* in them

2. Application

- Ephesians 4:1 – I urge you to *walk* in a manner worthy of your calling
- Ephesians 4:17 – You must no longer *walk* as the Gentiles do
- Ephesians 5:2 – *Walk* in love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us
- Ephesians 5:8 – *Walk* as children of light.
- Ephesians 5:15 – Be very careful, then, how you *walk*

EPHESIANS 5:15-21

¹⁵Be very careful, then, how you walk – not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore: do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is; ¹⁸and do not get drunk on wine (which is unsalvageable) but be filled with the Spirit,

EPHESIANS 5:15-21

¹⁹speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father always and for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Proposition: The resurrection calls us to be careful how we live, not as dullards but pursuing the things of Christ by the power of the Spirit.

- A. A Call to Congruence
- B. A Call to Vigilance
- C. A Call to Wakefulness
- D. A Call to Joyful Abandon

A CALL TO CONGRUENCE

Paul's exhortation is founded on the resurrection

EPHESIANS 5:15-16

Be very careful, then, ~~how you walk~~ not as unwise but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

EPHESIANS 5.14

This is why it is said: “Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

If Christ has risen, and if we have risen in Christ, then our lives are called to be eternally different

MATTHEW 28:1-10

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

ROMANS 6:3-11

*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that **just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

A CALL TO VIGILANCE

If Christ is risen, we ought to care how we walk

EPHESIANS 5:15-16

vigilant: not careless

*Be very careful, then, how you walk – not as unwise
but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days
are evil.*

Wisdom is what God displayed when He redeemed a people for His own possession and when He reconciled the peoples of the world to each other

So our wisdom is in imitating God's wisdom, using our time in ways that reveal and rejoice in redemption – How can I use this time in honor of Christ? How can I display Christ's redemption in this situation?

KIDS' QUESTION:

**DOES LIVING A CHRISTIAN
LIFE JUST HAPPEN?**

No, we have to be careful
to live in light of redemption.

A CALL TO WAKEFULNESS

If Christ is risen, we ought to be filled with His life

EPHESIANS 5:17-18

Through this:

Therefore: do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is; and do not get drunk on wine (which is unsalvageable) but be filled with the Spirit,

A CALL TO WAKEFULNESS

Therefore be very careful how walk:

- Not as unwise, but as wise
- Redeeming the time because the days are evil

Through this:

- Not being foolish, but understanding the will of the Lord
- Not being filled with wine, but being filled with the Spirit

Without mind, overlooking/ignoring what should be obvious truths

Forfeiting your mind, making yourself unable to see truth

This is just wastefulness (which is unsalvageable)

Paul wants us to use our minds in pursuit of Christ

JAMES 1:22-23

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

EPHESIANS 4:22-24

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

A CALL TO WAKEFULNESS

Therefore be very careful how walk:

- Not as unwise, **but as wise**
- Redeeming the time because the days are evil

Through this:

- Not being foolish, but **understanding the will of the Lord**
- Not being filled with wine, but **being filled with the Spirit**

Understanding and pursuing the sorts of things Paul is telling us about
Living in accordance with the things the Spirit desires

Paul wants us to pursue the godly attributes he is teaching us
by the power of the Spirit

I THESSALONIANS 4:2-8

*For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. **For this is the will of God, your sanctification;** that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. **Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.***

EPHESIANS 4:29-30

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

JAMES 1:25

But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

EPHESIANS 5:17-18

Therefore: do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is; and do not get drunk on wine (which is unsalvageable) but be filled with the Spirit,

We live in wisdom and redeem the time by using our minds to pursue sanctification according to the commands Paul has given us through the power of the Spirit

A CALL TO JOYFUL ABANDON

If Christ is risen, we ought to love God and each other

EPHESIANS 5:19-21

speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, *singing and making music* in your heart to the Lord, *giving thanks* to God the Father always and for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, *submitting* to one another out of reverence for Christ.

4 verb participles: not actions on their own, but adjectives, describing something else

A CALL TO JOYFUL ABANDON

Therefore be very careful how walk:

- Not as unwise, but as wise
- Redeeming the time because the days are evil

Through this:

- Not being foolish, but understanding the will of the Lord
- Not being filled with wine, but being filled with the Spirit

Which looks like this:

- **Speaking** to one another with Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
 - **Singing and making music** in your hearts to the Lord
 - **Giving thanks**, always and for everything, to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
- **Submitting** to one another out of reverence for Christ

EPHESIANS 5:19-21

speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, *singing and making music* in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks to God the Father always and for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Singing is central to the Christian life! Those filled with the Spirit are marked by singing to each other and God

PSALM 30:4-5

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

PSALM 95:1-2

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

EPHESIANS 5:19-21

speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks to God the Father always and for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

We sing to each other the truths of Scripture to encourage and exhort each other to live in them. Singing isn't a private activity!

EPHESIANS 5:19-21

speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks to God the Father always and for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

We love to sing to God with joy for all that He is and has done.
Singing is a time for praise!

EPHESIANS 5:19-21

speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks to God the Father always and for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

We never forget what God has done for us in Christ, but instead continually give thanks for all of it.

EPHESIANS 5:19-21

speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks to God the Father always and for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

We count others more significant than ourselves because we are Christ's servants and Christ has subjected all things to Himself.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-11

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

EPHESIANS 1:20-23

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and Subjected dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

EPHESIANS 5:19-21

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All activities that root us in the story of God's redemption, and orient our actions toward God and each other based on redemption

KIDS' QUESTION:

WHAT SORTS OF THINGS MARK A CHRISTIAN?

Taking our eyes off ourselves;
singing to each other and to God;
giving thanks to God always;
and serving each other.