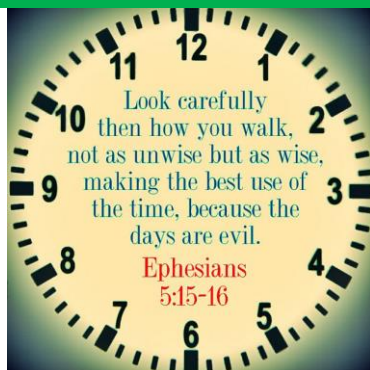


>>> Be Wise <<<



Sunday, 8/19 – 8:00 & 10:45 † Monday, 8/20 – 7 PM

13th Sunday after Pentecost / 12th Sunday after Trinity – 2018

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: **Are YOU wise?** In other words, *in every circumstance of life*, do you **think** about the *pertinent knowledge you have acquired*, and then do you **take action** *according to that knowledge*?

Since God has taken *radical action* to make us *holy in His sight* through *Jesus' shed blood*, today He will teach us *how to be wise* as we live each day in this *sin-filled world*!

1. **Check the Words:**

- a. **Let no one deceive you with empty words** [ones that are meaningless, without result], **for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience** [thus upon unbelievers]. // Words... we see and hear many every day, so on WHAT BASIS do we evaluate them?

- i. Option 1: They make sense; they feel right; they fit in with what we desire! Sir Francis Bacon put it

this way: “People prefer to believe what they prefer to be true.”¹ What is the problem with such reasoning? Those words are empty and invite God’s wrath upon those who embrace them! Lenski wrote: “...when sinners persist, disregard patient grace, intensify their disobedience, and literally challenge God, his wrath finally strikes the sinner down” (603).

ii. Option 2: They agree with the Bible, which is God’s Word! *That is how the Bereans did their evaluation*; the Bible says that “the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true” (Acts 17:11 NIV).

b. ⁷ **Therefore do not become partners** [*sharers, partakers*] **with them** [*with those speaking empty words*]; ⁸ **for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord** [*people who guide others by the way you live*]. // BEFORE God clothed us in Christ, we WERE all objects of His wrath. **But now**, since He has made us objects of His joy, let us rejoice in our blessed state, not return to His wrath, and be who we are – *light in the Lord!*

2. See the Sharp Contrast:

a. **Walk as children of light** [*guiding others with how you live*] ⁹ **(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),** ¹⁰ ~~and try to discern~~ [*discovering*] **what is pleasing to the Lord.** // As a person with a flashlight can guide others through a dark room, so our

¹ <http://faculty.valenciacollege.edu/mguillette/quotes.html>

lives are meant to be a guiding light to others! We are to guide them with ♣ doing good – thus, living morally, ♣ doing right – thus, living in agreement with God’s Word, and ♣ being true – thus, no lying or deceiving!

b. ¹¹ **Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them** [*thus express disapproval of them*].

¹² **For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.** // We expose them with words, to identify such things to be wrong! It is NOT shameful for us to point out such things, but it is shameful for those who are doing the unfruitful works of darkness! We should pray that such exposing will lead to repenting!

c. ¹³ **But when anything is exposed by the light** [*which happens as we express disapproval*], **it becomes visible** [*so people see it for what it really is*], ¹⁴ **for anything that**

becomes visible is light. // Since we are students of God’s Word, we know right from wrong; however, many others do not. Therefore, by expressing our disapproval, *sin becomes visible*... And when the Spirit impresses upon people that they are ♣ condemned sinners and ♣ objects of God’s wrath; then they are open to God’s rescue through Jesus!

d. **Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead** [*from being spiritually dead*], **and Christ will shine on you.”** // That is a phrase we could use to call someone from *spiritual death* to *spiritual life*! As we make the call, *the Spirit will work through the Word* to ♣ show the need for Christ and ♣ give the gift of Christ!

3. **Be Wise In How You Live:** Because of the extreme differences between ➡ total darkness and brilliant light, ➡ empty words and saving truth, ➡ dead in sin and alive in

Christ, ➔ the torments of hell and the joys of heaven...

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. // Imagine walking through a room with a cluttered floor; *it would be necessary to step carefully to avoid a fall.* In the passage above, God is calling us to use our knowledge of His Word to guide our lives in Christ. But why? Because ➔ our time here is limited and ➔ we live in the midst of much evil!

4. **Be Filled With the Spirit:** **¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery [which is the opposite of what the Lord desires], but be filled with the Spirit,** // Note the contrast: Don't become incapable of functioning spiritually; instead, ➔ be full of the Spirit and ➔ show forth His fruit (Galatians 5:22-23)! Here is how... by:
- a. **¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart** [*the center and source of your inner life*], // So address others ➔ from the heart, ➔ with sincerity, and ➔ overflowing with joy!
 - b. **²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,** // When things are difficult, *there are reasons to be thankful!*
 - c. **²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence [respect] for Christ.** // *So we submit because we are in Christ!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Holy Spirit, suppress our old nature and allow our new to shine unto God's glory! In Jesus' name!

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230