

# Walking In Wisdom

December 9, 2012

Eph 5:6-21 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them; 8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light 9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; 12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. 14 For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." 15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; 20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; 21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

## I. Be aware of deception

### A. Let no one deceive you. (Eph 5:6)

Col 2:4 I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.

Eph 5:6 with empty words

Empty = unreal words; namely palliations of:

"uncleanness" (that it is natural to indulge in love),

"covetousness" (that it is useful to society to pursue gain), and

"jesting" (that it is witty, and that God will not punish for such things).

(from Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary)

Eph 4:22 deception is part of the carnal nature.

that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

Col 2:8 natural reasoning and philosophy leads to deception

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

Heb 3:13 habitual sin leads to deception.

You must warn each other every day, as long as it is called "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.

Mat 13:22 spiritual life can be choked by the deceitfulness of wealth.

"And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

(Mark 4:19)

Keeping free from deception is to challenge of the last generation before Christ returns.

Mat 24:3-4 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" And Jesus answered and said to them, " See to it that no one misleads you. (Mark 13:5)

Mat 24:24-25. "For false Christ's and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect... (Mark 13:22)

2 Thes 2:3 Let no one in any way deceive you,

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

Col 2:4 I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.

1 Tim 2:14 And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

James 1:26 If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.

## **B. The wrath of God**

Eph 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Col 3:6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, (see Col 3:5-8)

## **II. Do not participate or be a partaker with darkness.**

### **A. Don't be partakers with them (Eph 5:7)**

Literally, "become" not. It is a warning against "lapsing" into old vices. (from Vincent's Word Studies in the New Testament)

### **B. You are no longer in darkness but in light.**

Eph 5:8 for you were formerly darkness,

Darkness speaks of the non-Christian lifestyle

2 Cor 6:14-15 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? (Read through verse 18 for the full context)

Col 1:13-14 we are no longer to walk in darkness because we have been transferred from it. For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1 Thes 5:4-7 We are not of night nor of darkness

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.

1 Peter 2:9 we are called out of darkness into His marvelous light.

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light

### **C. Expose darkness.**

Eph 5:11-13 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

1 John 1:6-9 we expose darkest through confession of our sins

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

### **D. Be awake and arise**

14 For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Eph 5:14 is apparently a free adaptation of Isa 26:19 & 60:1. (from Robertson's Word Pictures in the New Testament)

Isa 60:1 "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you."

Isa 26:19 Your dead will live; Their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, For your dew is as the dew of the dawn, And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.

Rom 13:11-12 Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

### **III. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.**

Eph 5:10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

Proving what is acceptable. That is, putting it to the test. Acceptability to the Lord is the criterion (cf. 2 Cor 5:9, where the same expression is used). (from The Wycliffe Bible Commentary)

2 Cor 5:9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

Testing and so proving; (from Robertson's Word Pictures in the New Testament)

The one point of all moral investigation is, "does it please God?" (from Vincent's Word Studies in the New Testament)

### **IV. Be careful how you walk.**

Eph 5:15-16 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

Carefully, anxiously, solicitous lest you fall into sin. The word rendered "circumspectly" (KJV) means "diligently," and the idea here is, that they were to take special pains to guard against the temptations around them, and to live as they ought to. (from Barnes' Notes)

**A. Be wise and not foolish.**

Mat 10:16 Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.

Col 4:5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.

**B. Make the most of every opportunity (Eph 5:16)**

The word rendered here as "redeeming," (KJV) means "to purchase; to buy up" from the possession or power of anyone; and then to redeem, to set free-as from service or bondage; here it means to recover our time from waste; to improve it for great and important purposes. (from Barnes' Notes)

**V. Understand the will of the Lord.**

**A. God's will:**

1 Thes 4:3-5 God's will is to live free from sexual sin.

For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

1 Thes 5:18 God's will is always being thankful.

18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

**B. Don't be intoxicated with alcohol.**

Prov 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.

(See also Rom 13:13; Gal 5:19-21; 1 Thes 5:7-8)

**C. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.**

Be filled with the Spirit. Keep on being filled; be continuously filled with the Spirit. A believer can never obtain more of the Holy Spirit, for he indwells the Christian's life in all his fullness. But the Holy Spirit can get more of the believer; that is, he can exercise complete control of the life that is yielded to him. (from The Wycliffe Bible Commentary)

**D. Speak and sing to one another the Scriptures and songs of praise.**

Speaking to yourselves. The result of the Spirit's filling is praise and thanksgiving as well as submission in the ordinary relationships of life (vv. 19-21). Psalms. This word usually indicates songs set to instrumental accompaniment, as does also the participle translated making melody (psallontes). In your heart to the Lord. Some people are not able to make much melody outwardly. But even they, if they are filled with the Spirit, will be making music in their hearts. 20. Giving thanks always. No limit on the time (cf. 1 Thes 5:18). For all things. No limit on the extent. (from The Wycliffe Bible Commentary)

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

**E. Always give thanks for all things.**

Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

1 Thes 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

**F. Live in submission to one another in the fear Christ.**

Submit is an old military figure to line up under (Col 3:18). (from Robertson's Word Pictures in the New Testament)