

Ephesians 5:15-21 CJB

(15) Therefore, pay careful attention to how you conduct your life — live wisely, not unwisely.

(16) Use your time well, for these are evil days.

(17) So don't be foolish, but try to understand what the will of the Lord is.

INTRODUCTION:

How the believer walks day by day throughout life is crucial to the cause of messiah Yeshua and to the welfare of society.

He either contributes to the building up of society or to the tearing down of society.

He either carries the message of life to the world or he carries the message of silence and death.

For this reason, it is important that the believer walk carefully and strictly throughout life.

Believers are to walk, showing close attention to accuracy and detail. They are to be Severe in maintaining discipline, or rigorous in ensuring that rules are obeyed.

Paul gives three principles by which we may attain this in verses 15-17.

1. BY LOOKING AROUND AND WATCHING EVERY STEP (V.15).

(5:15) Therefore, pay careful attention to how you conduct your life — live wisely, not unwisely.

Life is a walk, a path that we trod every day. When we arise in the morning, we begin to walk about. God expects us to walk diligently, perfectly. That is, carefully and accurately—exactly as we should.

The king James translation uses the word Circumspectly. Which is translated from the Greek word akribos [ak-ree-boce] *which means exactly:*

Note: there are two kinds of persons who walk throughout life.

1. There is the fool or unwise person:

This simply means the person who is unthinking, thoughtless, careless, uncaring, and worldly minded.

The unwise is the person who gives little thought about where he should go and where he should not go. He just arises in the morning and goes to work or about

his daily routine with little thought about God and about what happens beyond this life.

If he makes a mistake here and there, it does not matter that much, not to him. Making mistakes is just the way of all human life.

He thinks that he will be acceptable to whatever God there is, if he just lives a life...

- that is fairly decent and honorable and useful,
- that pays its dues to God here and there

The unwise person is not concerned about watching every step and being alert to every temptation and pitfall in life. He could care less about struggling and being exact and strict in life. Living a careful, accurate, strict, disciplined, controlled life is not that important to him.

2. There is the wise person:

The thinking, thoughtful, careful, caring, spiritually minded person. This is the person on mission. He knows God personally and he knows that he is on earth to live a righteous and godly life and to bear testimony to the Lord Yeshua Messiah.

Therefore, when he arises in the morning and goes to work or about his daily affairs, he walks in the presence and praise of God. His thoughts are upon God all day long. Mistakes matter to him. It all matters—the daily reports and talk about man's...

- sin
- cursing
- murder
- immorality
- drunkenness
- war
- hunger
- shame
- evil
- off-colored jokes
- obesity
- divorce
- suffering
- drugs
- selfishness
- power struggle
- neglect
- hate

The wise man is not only concerned about every step of life, but he struggles to watch every step—to make sure that he walks throughout life exact, strict, disciplined, and controlled.

He knows that the only answer to the evil and problems of life is Yeshua Messiah and His righteousness.

Ephesians 4:1 CJB

Therefore I, the prisoner united with the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

Colossians 2:6 (TMSG)

My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Messiah Yeshua, the Master; now live him.

1 John 2:6 (TMSG)

Anyone who claims to be intimate with God ought to live the same kind of life Yeshua lived.

Ephesians 5:15 (TMSG)

⁵So watch your step. Use your head.

2. BY REDEEMING THE TIME (V.16).

Walk carefully and strictly by redeeming the time

Ephesians 5:16 ASV

(16) redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Redeem mean to buy back from possession of others. Here it means, to rescue or recover our time from waste; to improve it for great and important purposes.

Ephesians 5:16NIV

Use your time well, for these are evil days.

Ephesians 5:16 (TMSG)

¹⁶Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!

The idea is not to buy time. Time is the gift of God; a man has time. What he is to do is to use his time to buy things of value. He is to redeem time, to turn his time in, for things of value.

This means TWO things:

1. A person is to use his time wisely; he is not to waste time.

Time is a gift of God. When a man is born into the world, he is born into time.

Time exists—it is here with or without us.

What we have to do is to:

use time—

use it wisely—

use it to do the best that we can.

The choice is ours. We can sit and twiddle away hours and engage in activity and conversation that is of little, if any, value or worth; or we can use time wisely, keeping our thoughts and hands busy...

- in our profession and work, contributing to the good of society.

- in our worship, and service for Yeshua—all day long—joining with others of Yeshua's congregation in witnessing and ministering to the lost and needful of our communities and cities.
- in meeting the needs of a world reeling under the weight of desperate masses gripped in suffering, sin, and death.

2. A person is to use his time by taking advantage of the opportunities that arise throughout the day.

The believer is to recover the opportunities... to recover our time from waste;

- to live righteously and godly.
- to witness and share Christ.
- to set an example of commitment and discipline with work, at home, and at play.
- to be faithful to God and family.
- to speak up for Yeshua and righteousness.
- to pray instead of allowing time to be wasted.

If a believer commits himself to pray as Yeshua and Paul prayed, he will find that he has no time to waste.

Note why we are to redeem the time:

Because the days are evil [These are desperate times!]

This refers to all the evil that confronts the believer as he walks day by day: so much evil that he must stay alert to keep from falling and failing. He must be alert to live righteously and to bear testimony to Yeshua.

The evil can range from mild temptations over to persecutions; from small money problems; to a world economic collapse; from a minor family squabble to war.

The evil of the world is ever before us—small and great. The task of the believer is to rescue or recover our time from waste; make the most use of what time he has; to improve it for great and important purposes

The opportunity will soon pass because the days are evil.

- The opportunity to witness will pass.
- The opportunity to speak up will pass.
- The opportunity to love will pass.
- The opportunity to minister will pass.
- The opportunity to work hard will pass.
- The opportunity to pray will pass.
- The opportunity to give will pass.

Colossians 4:5-6 CJB

- (5) Behave wisely toward outsiders, making full use of every opportunity —
- (6) let your conversation always be gracious and interesting, so that you will know how to respond to any particular individual.

How many of us waste time?
So much time is wasted by so many...

- by not really being efficient
- by watching television
- by lack of diligence at work
- by what we read

Each of us needs to take a moment and think through where we waste so much time and correct it. More than ever we need to give ourselves to make a significant contribution to our work and society, to our congregation and community, to living righteously and godly, to witnessing and helping a world of people who are

- discouraged and lonely,
- hungry and cold,
- hurting and suffering,
- needy and helpless—

All lost in sin—all without the knowledge of Yeshua and of eternal life.

The call of the hour is to Use your time well.

Ephesians 5:15-16

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

1 Corinthians 7:29, 31 CJB

(29) What I am saying, brothers, is that there is not much time left: because the present scheme of things in this world won't last much longer.

Philippians 4:8 CJB

In conclusion, brothers, focus your thoughts on what is true, noble, righteous, pure, lovable or admirable, on some virtue or on something praiseworthy.

2 Corinthians 10: 5 CJB

We demolish arguments and every arrogance that raises itself up against the knowledge of God; we take every thought captive and make it obey the Messiah.

3. By understanding the Lord's will (v.17).

Walk carefully and strictly by understanding the Lord's will.

Ephesians 5:17)

So don't be foolish, but try to understand what the will of the Lord is.

Note how both the unwise man and the wise man are defined in this verse.

- The foolish man is a man who does not understand the will of the Lord.
- The wise man is a man who does understand the will of the Lord.

The Greek word “understand” (suniemi- soon-ee'-ay-mee) means to grasp, perceive, see with the mind and comprehend; To be wise

As stated in the previous verse, the days are evil—full of all sorts of evil.

The believer must understand what God's will is in order to conquer the evil. If he does not, then he is as a fool and acting unwisely.

Proverbs 10:8 CJB

Wise-hearted people take orders, but a babbling fool will have trouble.

How can a person know what the will of the Lord is?

1. By knowing the Word of God—by knowing it so well that he can apply it to the situations that confront him every day.

2 Timothy 2:15 CJB

Do all you can to present yourself to God as someone worthy of his approval, as a worker with no need to be ashamed, because he deals straightforwardly with the Word of the Truth.

Psalms 119:11 CJB

I treasure your word in my heart, so that I won't sin against you.

John 8:31-32 CJB

(31) So Yeshua said to the Judeans who had trusted him, "If you obey what I say, then you are really my disciples

(32) you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

1 Peter 1:22 CJB

(22) Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth, so that you have a sincere love for your brothers, love each other deeply, with all your heart.

2. By being sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 CJB

What I am saying is this: run your lives by the Spirit. Then you will not do what your old nature wants.

John 14:26 CJB

But the Counselor, the Ruach HaKodesh, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything; that is, he will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 16:13-14 CJB

(13) However, when the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own initiative but will say only what he hears. He will also announce to you the events of the future.

(14) He will glorify me, because he will receive from what is mine and announce it to you.

Romans 8:13-14 CJB

(13) For if you live according to your old nature, you will certainly die; but if, by the Spirit, you keep putting to death the practices of the body, you will live.

(14) All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons.

Our prayer should be like David, who prayed:

Psalms 143:10 CJB

(10) Teach me to do your will, because you are my God. Let your good Spirit guide me on ground that is level.

Conclusion:

Believers are to walk carefully [showing close attention to accuracy and detail] and strictly. They are to be Severe in maintaining discipline, or rigorous in ensuring that rules are obeyed.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (AMP)

Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully *and* worthily *and* accurately, not as the unwise *and* witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people),

16 Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be vague *and* thoughtless *and* foolish, but understanding *and* firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is.