

SUNDAY SERVICE NOTES

March 14, 2021
Ephesians 5:15-21

Wrapping up
walking in the way
of Jesus

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In today's section of Scripture, Paul wraps up the last 30 verses that we've been talking about over the last few weeks.

He's been talking about our Walk – you may remember that the Greek word is *peripateo* – *to make one's way, progress; to make due use of opportunities.*

Here's some of the things we've talked about concerning how we walk as Jesus Followers:

1) Don't walk as the Gentiles walk

- futility of the mind
- darkened in their understanding
- excluded from the life of God
- ignorance
- hardness of heart
- impurity
- falsehood
- unbridled anger
- stealing
- undisciplined speech
- grieving the Holy Spirit
- bitterness
- wrath
- clamor
- slander
- malice
- greed
- silly talk/course jesting
- idolatry

2) Walk the Jesus Way

- righteousness
- holiness
- truth
- sharing
- edification
- grace
- kindness
- tender-heartedness
- forgiving
- Christlikeness
- love
- light
- awake – arise – shine

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KŪPĀ'A
2021
1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

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As Paul explains how we are to walk as Jesus Followers, he goes into some pretty good detail over the last 30 verses and then wraps it up with his third “therefore”. It not only appears to be his concluding thoughts to the church in Ephesus on the matter, but it seems to add a definite emphasis to the topic:

Ephesians 5:15-21 *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.*

There are 3 distinct principles that Paul highlights here as He wraps up his Spirit inspired discussion on our walk as Jesus Followers:

- 1) **Be careful**
- 2) **Be filled with the Spirit**
- 3) **Be thankful**

Let’s look at these principles one at a time:

1) Be careful

There are two Greek words used for “Be careful”:

A) **Blepo**

to see, discern, of the bodily eye
 with the bodily eye: to be possessed of sight, have the power of seeing
 perceive by the use of the eyes: to see, look descry
 to turn the eyes to anything: to look at, look upon, gaze at
 to perceive by the senses, to feel
 to discover by use, to know by experience
 metaph. to see with the mind's eye
 to have (the power of) understanding
 to discern mentally, observe, perceive, discover, understand
 to turn the thoughts or direct the mind to a thing, to consider,
 contemplate, to look at, to weigh carefully, examine

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B) Akribos
exactly, accurately, diligently

You can see, by the depth of meaning in the Greek, why Paul connected being careful with being wise versus unwise. If we are to intentionally, consistently, and victoriously walk in the way of Jesus we must walk in spiritual/supernatural wisdom and not merely human/natural wisdom.

The kind of wisdom that enables us to walk carefully in these evil days, making the most of the time the Father gifts to us transcends just learning or knowing things. It taps into knowing and understanding the Father in a way that shakes us to the core of our being. The Psalmist defines this as “the fear of the Lord”

Psalm 111:7-10

The works of His hands are truth and justice; All His precepts are sure. ⁸ They are upheld forever and ever; They are performed in truth and uprightness. ⁹ He has sent redemption to His people; He has ordained His covenant forever; Holy and awesome is His name. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments; His praise endures forever.

Psalm 90:11,12 *Who understands the power of Your anger and Your fury, according to the fear that is due You? ¹² So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.*

Biblical wisdom will alter how we walk:

James 3:13-17 *Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.*

2) Be Spirit filled

It’s interesting that the “filled” with the Spirit that Paul is talking

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about here is not the dunamis power, “baptized” in the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues, prophecy, miracles, etc. The Greek word for that is pimlemi – a very powerful and needed “filling” of the Spirit in our day and age for a powerful witness and testimony of His. Greatness. This “filled” is pleroo – the filling of the Spirit that occurs when we are born again and the Spirit dwells in us and it is a filling that we need to continue to have occur in our lives. Life is draining and by abiding in Him we are constantly being filled. If we are not filled with the Spirit (pleroo) we will have a very difficult time walk in the way of Jesus with wisdom and carefulness.

Paul uses a comparison here with getting drunk.

Pleroo leads to wise, careful walking – drunkenness leads to dissipation (Greek = asōtia, which means an abandoned dissolute life. Dissolute means indifferent to moral restraints; given to immoral or improper conduct.)

One leads to a stable walk, led by the “restraint” of the yoke of Christ and the other leads to unrestraint, open game for the work of the enemy in these evil days.)

3) Be thankful

Eric did a good job of explaining the power of thanksgiving in our lives:

“I believe thanksgiving helps us see everything in proper perspective. Sometimes we are so consumed by looking around on how to attain more knowledge or things of this world that we forget that God already gave us everything we need for living a godly life. **(2 Peter 1:3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.)**

He reminded us of **Philippians 4:6,7** *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Thanksgiving is what calibrates our hearts and minds and keeps us focused on the right things, with the right perspective.

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Verse 20 (*always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God*) may seem like an unattainable goal – but the Father led Paul to set the bar high so that we kept His sovereignty and glory always before us.

I encourage you to go back and reflect on the previous 3 messages covering Ephesians 4:17-5:14. As you do, meditate on how you can walk in the way of Jesus with careful wisdom, Spirit filled stability, and a foundation of thanksgiving.

Let's Talk Story Questions

- 1) How can you walk with more careful wisdom as defined in today's Scriptures?
- 2) How can you walk in a biblical "fear of the Lord" in order to help you grow in your spiritual wisdom?
- 3) How are some ways you can consistently and intentionally be filled with the Spirit?
- 4) Are there things you are doing in your life that are creating an extra "drain" on your spiritual walk that you need eliminate? Things that cause you to slip out of the yoke of Jesus and walk unrestrained and vulnerable? List them and pray for the courage to align yourself to His life-giving truth and will.
- 5) Ask the Father to show you areas of your life that you are not walking in thanksgiving. List them and ask the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you into how to "*always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God.*"

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