

Careful How you Walk **Ephesians 5:15-21**

People thrive, do well when they have information & instruction (**what am I supposed to do?**) and w/o it, creates confusion, anxiety, insecurity & even fear— *people perish-**destroyed** for lack of knowledge Hosea 4:6*. Paul is instructing us in how we are to walk as believers in a dark & sinful world. Walk in forgiveness, in love & in light. Now in next verses he tells us to walk in 3 B's, be **careful** :15; be **filled** :18 and be **subject** :21

*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.*

Therefore—points back to what he previously said--we are to be imitators of God, walking in forgiveness, love & light Now we are to be **careful** or **circumspect** KJ, w/ exactness, accurately, seeing what's around us, ordering our behavior. Thoughtful steps not careless, leaving them to chance—*Pr 7:7 And I saw among the naive, I discerned among the youths, A young man lacking sense, 8 Passing through the street near her corner; And he takes the way to her house,*

We are to habitually monitor our conduct in light of God's word & His will, being wise not unwise. Walking w/ purpose & intent not careless or reckless but bringing light into a dark world. Light **reveals** and **guides**

Making most of time, redeeming KJ – not roaming or wandering not sleepwalking thru life. *Work while it's light for darkness come no man work*

Redeem - to buy up to our advantage *Ps 90:12 So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.* **Time Chronos**-a period of time, short or long *Heb 11:32 And what more shall I say? For **time will fail** me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, **chrones** would fail...& **Kairos** a definite, strategic opportune period of time – time when certain events take place*

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Rom 5:6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.; **13:11** 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. **1Cor**

7:29 But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none;. The word Paul uses for *making the most or redeeming* the time is not disciplining ourselves to make the best use of time, not wasting it. But *Kairos* taking advantage of the opportunities that present themselves & use them. *Empress; Komo Mai; Mother in coma*

Days are evil poneros – active forces of evil opposed to believers. **Matt 12:29** “Or how can anyone enter the strong man’s house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. *Christmas lights & manger on Emperess*

17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk w/ wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

Don’t be foolhardy in your walk by taking lightly forces of evil in world that want to destroy your witness & reputation by drawing you into sin. But instead understand God’s will. *God’s word is like a blueprint of building you built what is in architect mind.*

Perceive what is out there and around you, traps, snares, temptations & avoid them & walk in the will of the Lord.. *’My bread is to do the will of the father...devil has nothing in me....I am not of this world...I only do that which pleases the Father. 1Thes 4:3-8 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; 6 and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. 7 For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. 8 So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.*

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Not drunk w/ wine unwise - Pr 20:1 *Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.* Alcohol father/mother Pr 31:6 *Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to him whose life is bitter.* John L me drink – But *filled w/ HS* a big contrast – *dissipation*-wastefulness because of behavior—a wasted life w/o salvation. Abandoned by God, cannot be saved.

Vincent--describing the stretching of a bull's hide, which in order to make it more elastic is soaked w/ fat'. The word refers to the condition of a person in which he is soaked w/ wine.

Obnoxious behavior--repulsive to be around. Contrast to Holy Spirit who brings joy, laughter, peace of mind—Not the artificial crude happy, perverse laughter of a sloppy drunk cackling over the mundane. So don't indulge in false spirits, artificial highs of alcohol.

OT priest no wine God wanted true worship of spirit not artificial stimulant. Pr 31:4 *It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Or for rulers to desire strong drink, 5 For they will drink and forget what is decreed, And pervert the rights of all the afflicted.*

Holy Spirit transforms - Rachael Roscoff --- Baptism w/ HS R.A. Torrey

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.

Outward *to one another* & inward *to the Lord*. Three things filling w/ Holy Spirit does--*Joyful melody* :19; *Thankful heart* :20; *Subject-rank under* :21
'don't think more highly of yourself than you ought to think but have sound judgment....don't just look out for your own needs but look out for the needs of others...the greatest in the K of G is the servant of all...have this attitude in yourself...Phil 2 Paul saw himself as *small, less, finally least*

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Greatest therapy for emotional, psychological & stressful times is giving thanks & praise to God ***Power in praise*** book

God is in charge of all that happens, oversees every situation so coming to Him in praise and adoration puts Him on the throne of our life and in control. No need for a **bottle** or **pills** for temporary relief but go to Jesus in praise & thanksgiving for permanent cure. ***He works all things together for good to those who love Him & are called according to His purpose.***

Always giving thanks for all things, spiritual training. Paul in prison when writing. Trials are spiritual **bootcamp** to discipline us to be in a continual state of praise & thanksgiving. Positive attitude of praise--do it & you'll feel it. Praise is the spiritual **antidote** for the devil's prompting us to criticize condemn & complain so we not stay in state of bitterness & anger. ***Song I love you Lord***

To ***subject ourselves to one another in love*** is like oil in gears of machinery. Engine w/o oil freezes up--**40 quarts**—not aloof or isolated '**he who separates himself seeks his own ways**. become resistant to correction-**not subject**. **Lone ranger** Christians stagnate & become prideful, remain in perpetual state of stunted growth. But not so for those who are careful how they are to walk. Stay under the spout where the Holy Spirit is poured out.