

Ephesians 5:5-21 - Part 3

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 10-28-15

Context:

1. New Life in Christ (1:3-2:10)
2. The New Society (2:11-3:21)
3. **New Standards - unity and purity** (4:1-5:21) - final section
4. New Relationships (5:21-6:24)

Incentives for Righteous Living (vv. 5-21)

- Incentive = A thing that motivates or encourages one to do something
- Last 2 weeks: **1. The Certainty of Judgement** (vv. 5-7); **2. The Fruit of Light** (vv. 8-14)

Notes:

3. The Nature of Wisdom (vv. 15-17)

2 assumptions:

1. That Christians are _____ people
2. That Christian wisdom is _____ wisdom

V. 15 - "be careful how you **walk**, not as unwise men but as **wise**"

- "walk" - a Hebraism for live/ behave. Not like Gentiles, but in a manner worthy of God's call (4:1), in love (5:1), as children of light (5:8). Now "wise".
- We are "careful" with the things that matter most

The marks of wise people:

1. Wise people make the most of their _____ (v. 16)
 - Gk. verb means "to buy up" - i.e. *make the most of it*.
 - *kairos* - not general time, but every passing _____
 - Jonathan Edwards: "Resolved: Never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I can."
 - Takes effort. Hard to do. That's why Paul says, "Be **careful** how you live..."
2. Wise people discern the _____ of God (v. 17)
 - The most important thing for us to do in life. Follow Jesus' example!
 - 2 aspects:
 - _____
 - Relates to his will for all his people, the same for each person
 - E.g. to make us _____ Christ
 - Found in Scripture - the will of God for the people of God is found in the Word of God
 - _____
 - Concerns the particularities of each person's life
 - E.g. career, spouse, etc.
 - Scripture contains general principles, needs careful thought and prayer and advice from faith community