

Intro:

Main Point of Text: Wise Christians make the most of every evil because they gratefully see God's good hand in all things.

Sermon Point: *Thank God for Every Evil Thing.*

Move 1: Always giving thanks for everything, including the bad, is the wisest way to live.

Call of contrast between wise and foolish handling of life: vs. 15: walk carefully, not as unwise, but as wise. Vs. 17: don't be foolish, but be understanding. Vs. 18: Don't be drunk on wine, but filled [fulfilled, like cup to brim] in the Spirit. Wisdom understands by precept and practice that thanksgiving is God's will: vs. 17b. 1 Thess. 5:18: *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you*. If this is the will of God, then it is the wisest way to live that will be blessed.

Move 2: Giving thanks without ceasing helps you see how bad things could be much worse.

Vs. 16: days are evil. Vs. 20b: Jesus Christ is ours, God our Father. Totally saved. Often spared. These are evil days because we are in a fallen world. Be thankful that you have been resurrected from the dead and will not suffer at the jaws and claws of the Devil in hell. And be thankful that God spares you many things on earth, while the Spirit comforts you as only Christians can be (vs. 18b).

Move 3: Continual thanksgiving helps you see all the good in the midst of the bad.

Vss. 18-20a: to be filled with the Spirit is to speak and sing the Psalms to one another. Vs. 19, "making melody" is lit. "to pluck the string". Your heart has been tuned for thanksgiving, and you strum it. You can always find good in the midst of bad and enjoy it.

Move 4: Living a life of constant thankfulness helps you see there is always good in the bad.

Vs. 16: these are evil days but you can "make the most" of them (redeeming time). Vs. 20: y'all should give thanks always for all things. Like 1 Thess. 5:18: *In every thing give thanks ...* Rom. 8:28. Psalm 119: *It is good for me that I have been afflicted ... I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.* (Vss. 71, 75) Gen. 45:5; 50:20. Luke 22:17-19: Christ gave thanks for the cross.

Conclusion:

Thank God for Every Evil Thing.