

Redeeming 2024

Ephesians 5:15-17

East Berlin Community Church

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January 7, 2024

Introduction

- The Evaporation of Time
- The Need for Wisdom
 - Definition of “wisdom” — *“Skill in Godly living”*
 - **Worth of Wisdom**
 - Proverbs 4:5-7-- *“Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her and she will keep you. Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.”*
 - Proverbs 8:11-- *“For wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one desires cannot be compared to her.”*
 - Proverbs 8:33-35-- , *“Hear instruction and be wise, and do not disdain it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord.”*
- **In Ephesians 5:1, we are commanded to live as an “Imitator of God”**
 - **By our Love**—5:2-6
 - **By our Light**—5:7-14

Redeeming 2024— Characteristics of Wise Living

- Ephesians 5:15-17-- *“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”*

A. Wise Christians live “circumspectly”

- Ephesians 5:15-- *“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise.”*
1. **“Accuracy”**—careful, according to the plans.
 - 1 John 2:1-- *“these things I write to you so that you may not sin!”*-
 2. **“Investigation”**—living according to the truth, the facts

B. Wise Christians redeem their time

- Ephesians 5:16-- *“redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”*
1. **God has allotted to each of us a set amount of time—and it is short.**
 - James 4:14-- *“Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”*
 - Psalm 39:5-- *“Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, and my age is as nothing before You; Certainly every man at his best state is but vapor. ”*
 2. **God desires for us to ‘redeem the time’, that is to invest our time in that which will pay eternal dividends.**
 3. **Four Classifications of “Time management”**
 - a. Urgent and Important
 - b. Non- urgent, but important
 - c. Urgent, but not important
 - d. Non-urgent and not important

4. **Added incentive:** *"because the days are evil"*

C. Wise Christians understand God's Will.

- Ephesians 5:17-- *"Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."*
- 1. **Difference between being a "fool" (v. 15) and "unwise" (v. 17)**
 - Psalm 14:1-- *"The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'"*
 - Proverbs 12:15-- *"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes!"*
 - 2 Timothy 3:15-- *"able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus".*
- 2. **We are to be wise in the "General Will" of God**
 - a. **God's Will for you to be saved.**
 - 1 Timothy 2:3-4-- *"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*
 - b. **God's Will for you to be sanctified.**
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:3-- *"For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;"*
 - c. **God's Will for you to be in submission to authority**
 - 1 Peter 3:13-15 -- *"Therefore, submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men."*
 - 1 Corinthians 11:3-- *"But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ; the head of the woman is man; and the head of Christ is God."-*
 - Hebrews 13:17-- *"Obey them who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. "*
 - d. **God's Will for you to do what is right, even if it means suffering or persecution.**
 - 1 Peter 3:17-- *"For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil."*
 - e. **God's Will for you to be thankful in all situations.**
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:18-- *"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*
- 3. **When you are wise in doing the revealed "general will" of God, then you are in a position for the Lord to direct and lead you in His specific will for your life.**
 - Proverbs 3:5-6-- *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."*
 - Psalm 37:4-- *"Delight yourself also in the Lord; and He shall give you the desires of your heart"*