

Walk Wisely Ephesians 5:15-17

Introduction

NJFK—blindfold

15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

1. Look carefully how you walk (15).
2. Buy back opportunities for good (16).
3. Understand what the Lord wants (17).

1. Look carefully how you walk (15).

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise.

Watch accurately—pay attention

Illus: driving, stay alert, notice what's going on around you (drive defensively)

Walk—walk about; your everyday walkabout life

Don't just coast without paying attention to how your living your everyday life. Life is precious, and it's made up of time. Use the time well. Eyes wide open.

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Wisdom—skillful living

Wise or unwise in your everyday living?

2. Buy back opportunities for good (16).

Making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

Literally, Buy up at the marketplace

We would expect him to say “because the days are short.” But he says, “because the days are evil.”

In other words, when we don't buy back time for good, we leave it to be used for evil. That's the natural direction of life for sinners by birth and by choice in this sin-cursed world. Lack of intentionality drives a lot of poor use of time and leads toward sinful and harmful behavior. It is an ever-present active evil. Like what God warned Cain: sin crouches at the door and its desire is to have you.

It costs you something to use time (life) well, but it costs you far more not to.

Good or evil use?

Are you buying back the moments and seasons of life for good purposes, instead of leaving them for harmful and bad purposes?

Chuck Alexander: dedicated the service division of Landscapers Supply to him because he turned that department around and made it profitable. He worked there only 3.5 years.

He used those 41 months well.

3. Understand what the Lord wants (17).

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Parents have wishes and dreams for their children. They want them to have the best life possible.

God has wishes for us, too. There is a path of life that pleases Him well. A child naturally wants to please his mom or dad despite their flaws. How much more our perfect heavenly Father?

God has given to us everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1). He has given us the Scriptures. God has given us His Son. God has given us the Spirit. There is no reason that we cannot know what He would want us to be and to do.

So live life the way He desires you to live it. It is the way of grace and peace and joy.

Why would anyone want to live life like a fool? To pursue a path that is away from what God wants for you is the path of sin and sorrow, of disappointment and harm. Only a fool would take such a path when the Lord our Shepherd is there to lead us in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Mindless or understanding?

Conclusion

1. Look carefully how you walk (15).
2. Buy back opportunities for good (16).
3. Understand what the Lord wants (17).