

Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:15-20 (NIV)

Every Opportunity

I will be careful. I will watch out. I will monitor all my thoughts and words and actions. I know that the days are evil. I live in a sin broken world. I don't want anything about my thoughts or words or actions to hinder my ability to serve you. But I am asking you to help me to live a wise life. I am asking you to help me to be able to know and do your will. I want to be able to make the most of every opportunity you give to me to serve you. **Do you believe that I will hear and answer these desires and prayers of yours?** Yes, I do, without a doubt. **That is very good. Yes, I will hear and answer these desires and prayers of yours. I will help you to live a wise life that is good and right and pleasing to me. I will help you to be wise in all that you think, say and do.** Thank you, Lord.

What tool do you think I will use to help you to know and do my will? What tool will I use to help you to be wise in all that you think and so and do? You will use your word. You will use your word to guard and guide all my thoughts and words and actions. **Yes, that is exactly what I will use to change your heart, transform your mind and guide your life. Now, does knowing that, place any responsibility on you?** Yes, it does. I must come to meet with you in your word. I must take your word deep into my heart and mind and life. I must allow your word to feed and sustain and strengthen me. **If you fail to meet with me in my word what will be the result?** If I fail to meet with you in your word, I will not be able to know and do your will. I will not be able to live a life that is good and right and pleasing to you because I will not have allowed your word to work in and through me. **But that won't happen to you.** No, it won't. **Why is that?** I meet with you every day in your word. **Yes, you do and that is very good.**

How will you be empowered to know and do my will? How will you be made able to make the most of every opportunity I give you to serve me? How will I empower you to do good by ministering to others? Your Holy Spirit will fill me. Your Holy Spirit will empower me. Your Holy Spirit will use your word, like a sword, to work in me, with me, for me and through me so that I can make the most of every opportunity to serve you by ministering to others. **That is true. That is right. That is good. Now go with the power of my word and my Spirit working in and through you.** Yes Lord, I will. **That will be very good.**

Lord, I will be careful how I live. Help me to be wise. I want to understand and accomplish your will. Fill me with your Spirit. Empower me to make the best use of opportunity to serve you. Thank you, for every opportunity you will give me to minister to others. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Every Opportunity*

Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

NIV Ephesians 5:15-20

Becoming Like Christ *Every Opportunity*

So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

NLT Ephesians 5:15-20

Becoming Like Christ *Most Of The Time*

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

NRSV Ephesians 5:15-20

Becoming Like Christ *Most Of The Time*

Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people). Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil. Therefore do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but ever be filled and stimulated with the [Holy] Spirit. Speak out to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, offering praise with voices [and instruments] and making melody with all your heart to the Lord, At all times and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

AMP Ephesians 5:15-20

Becoming Like Christ *Most Of Your Time*

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

NASB Ephesians 5:15-20

Becoming Like Christ *Use Of The Time*

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

ESV Ephesians 5:15-20

Becoming Like Christ *Redeeming The Time*

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. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

NKJV Ephesians 5:15-20

Becoming Like Christ *Every Chance*

So watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times! Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants. Don't drink too much wine. That cheapens your life. Drink the Spirit of God, huge draughts of him. Sing hymns instead of drinking songs! Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ.

MSG Ephesians 5:15-20

Becoming Like Christ *Every Opportunity*

So be careful how you act; these are difficult days. Don't be fools; be wise: make the most of every opportunity you have for doing good. Don't act thoughtlessly, but try to find out and do whatever the Lord wants you to. Don't drink too much wine, for many evils lie along that path; be filled instead with the Holy Spirit and controlled by him. Talk with each other much about the Lord, quoting psalms and hymns and singing sacred songs, making music in your hearts to the Lord. Always give thanks for everything to our God and Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

TLB Ephesians 5:15-20

Becoming Like Christ *Every Chance*

So be very careful how you live. Do not live like those who are not wise, but live wisely. Use every chance you have for doing good, because these are evil times. So do not be foolish but learn what the Lord wants you to do. Do not be drunk with wine, which will ruin you, but be filled with the Spirit. Speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord. Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

NCV Ephesians 5:15-20

Every Opportunity

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – Ephesians 5:15-20

In Context: *Read Ephesians 5*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I will be careful how I live. Help me to be wise. I want to understand and accomplish your will. Fill me with your Spirit. Empower me to make the best use of opportunity to serve you. Thank you, for every opportunity you will give me to minister to others. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How are you carefully monitoring all your thoughts, words and actions?

Why is it critically important that you make the most of every opportunity the Lord gives you to serve Him?

When have you been painfully aware of the fact that you are in a battle with evil in this world?

How has the Lord helped you to both know and do His will?

How are you asking for and relying on the Holy Spirit to empower your ministry to others?

What opportunities has the Lord given you to serve Him by ministering to others?

How are you making praise and worship and thanksgiving, to the Lord, a dominant theme in your life?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Make the most of every opportunity that the Lord gives you to serve Him.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will give you abundant opportunities to serve Him.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you made the most of an opportunity to serve the Lord.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you make the most of every opportunity the Lord gives you to serve Him.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will make the most of every opportunity to serve you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I make the most of every opportunity to serve you today?
