

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. Ephesians 5:15-17 (NIV)

It's About Time

You have been given time. Time is a gift from me. You will be wise if you are very careful how you live your life. You will be considered wise if you make good use of the time, I have given to you. Are you being very careful how you live your life? Are you making the very best use of your time? Are these questions that you have taken time to sit down to consider?

No, I don't think so. I may have vaguely thought of these questions as I have gone through life. But I have never taken time to sit down to closely examine how I am living my life and using my time. **It's about time, don't you think?** Yes, it is about time. It's past time. **But it's not too late.** That's good.

There is a huge problem, however. **What's that?** I'm pretty sure that I am not a very good judge of how I am living my life and using my time. **Why do you say that?** I have made so many mistakes. I have wasted so much time. If I have any hope of wisely living my life and making the best use of my time, I will need a lot of help. I will need your help. **Are you asking me for my help?** Yes, I am asking you for help. **My help will come to you in proportion to how well you listen to me.** I'm not exactly sure what you mean. **You will still need to take time to sit down to evaluate how you are living your life and using your time. You will ask the questions, but the answers will come from me.** How is that? **How do I speak to you? What have I given to you so you can hear from me?** You have given me your word. You speak to me through your word. **Yes, I do. My word will help you to evaluate your life and how you are using your time. Spend time with me in my word and you will grow wise in how you live your life and how you use your time. What else have I given to you?** You have given me your Holy Spirit. **Yes, my Holy Spirit is living inside of you. As you listen to the voice of my Holy Spirit, you will know where to go and what to do. My Holy Spirit will help you to live the life that I have called you to live. My Holy Spirit will help you to wisely make the best use of the time you have been given. Will you listen to my word? Will you listen to my Holy Spirit?** Yes Lord, I will.

Lord, help me to examine how I am living my life and using the time you have given to me. Help me to know and do your will as I follow and serve you. I want each one of my days to be wisely used to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. Amen

Guidance *Do Not Be Foolish*

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.

NIV Ephesians 5:15-17

Guidance *Do Not Be Foolish*

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.

ESV Ephesians 5:15-17

Guidance *Don't Act Thoughtlessly*

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.

NLT Ephesians 5:15-17

Guidance *Do Not Be Unwise*

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.

NKJV Ephesians 5:15-17

Guidance *Do Not Be Foolish*

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.

NRSV Ephesians 5:15-17

Guidance *Don't Live Carelessly, Unthinkingly*

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.

MSG Ephesians 5:15-17

Guidance *Do Not Be Vague And Thoughtless And Foolish*

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.

AMP Ephesians 5:15-17

Guidance *Don't Act Thoughtlessly*

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.

TLB Ephesians 5:15-17

Guidance *Do Not Be Foolish*

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.

NASB Ephesians 5:15-17

Guidance *Do Not Be Foolish*

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.

NCV Ephesians 5:15-17

Do Not Be Foolish

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Guidance – Ephesians 5:15-17

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, help me to examine how I am living my life and using the time you have given to me. Help me to know and do your will as I follow and serve you. I want each one of my days to be wisely used to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. Amen

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

How are you being very careful how you live as you follow the Lord?

How are you making the very best use of the time the Lord has given to you?

How does a fool live their life and use the time that they have been given?

When do you take time to closely examine how you are living your life?

How has God's word helped you to come to know and do His will?

How has the Lord used you to do good things in this evil world?

What purpose and mission has the Lord given you to fulfill as serve Him?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Carefully examine how you are living your life and using your time as you follow and serve the Lord.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that the Lord will help you to know and do His will so that you will not act foolishly.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord has helped you to know and do His will.

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 understand what the will of the Lord is so that you do not act foolishly.

Prayer To Carry

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

Lord, help me to know your will so that I do not act foolishly.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I know your will so that I will not act foolishly today?
