

Ephesians
Lesson #20, Chapter 5:15-21

Ask the Lord for wisdom in applying what you learn in this lesson.

1. Review what we learned last week from 5:1-14 and record it here.
2. In light of those truths from 5:1-14, what admonition does Paul give us in verses 15-16? Why (verse 16)?
3. Define *careful* (NKJV *circumspectly* [Strong's #199]) and *walk* (NIV *live* [Strong's #4043]).
4. Define *making the most of your time* (NKJV *redeeming the time* [Strong's #1805]).
5. What are some biblical ways you can make the most of your time? See verse 15; Rom. 13:11-14; Gal. 6:10; Col. 4:5.
6. Why would knowing that the days are evil be a motivation for making the most of your time? What is implied in that statement? See Ps. 39:4-5; Eccles. 11:2; 1 Cor. 7:26, 29-31; Eph. 6:13; James 4:14-17.

7. What won't the foolish or the unwise understand in verse 17?

8. What is God's will for the Ephesians according to the preceding verses (see 5:1-16)?

9. Another aspect of walking wisely is added in verse 18. What do you learn?

10. The Greek construction of this command in verse 18 indicates that you are to be continually allowing the Holy Spirit to fill you. How do you do that? See Eph. 4:30; 5:18; Gal. 5:16-25; 1 Jn. 1:9.

11. How can you tell when you are filled with the Spirit? See verses 19-20 and Gal. 5:22-24.

12. Notice one manifestation of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life is the Word of God. What do you need to do if the Word of God is to pour out of your mouth like Paul describes in verse 19? Also see Col. 3:16. Are you doing that?

13. Why would always being thankful for all things be another indication of a Spirit-filled life?

14. What is another way to tell if you are filled with the Spirit according to verse 21? Why is that a good indication of being Spirit-filled? See also Phil. 2:3-7.

15. Why would the *fear of Christ* be a motivation for submission? See also 2 Cor. 5:11 and 7:1.

16. This section began by contrasting the wise man and the unwise man. What did you learn about the wise man from verses 15-21?

17. What distinguishes a wise man from an unwise man in verses 15-21?

18. What are the first steps to walking as a wise man according to verses 15-21?

19. If someone said to you, “How can I *practically* be careful in how I walk?” What would you tell them? Try to be as specific and concrete as you can. Try coming up with 5 things from today’s lesson.

20. If someone then said to you, “How can I make the most of my time?” What would you tell them? Again, try to be as specific and concrete in your answer as you can. Try coming up with 5 things.

21. What if someone said to you, “I think I spend most of my day not being filled with the Holy Spirit. I start out okay, but before I know it, I am singing songs of drudgery and complaint. What do I need to change so that my life will look like Eph. 5:19-21 and Gal. 5:22-24? Based upon what you have learned in this lesson what would you tell them?

22. What if someone then said to you, “What are some ways I can be subject to other believers?” What would you tell them? Try to think of some specific attitudes and actions that would help them be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

“Human nature likes rule; but the Spirit of God works submissiveness of mind. Instead of wanting to be first, the truly spiritual man will be satisfied to be last, if he can thus glorify God. That man who must be always king of the castle, is not filled with the Spirit of God; but he that is willing to be a doormat, on which the saints may wipe their feet, is great in the kingdom of heaven. Be filled with the Spirit, and you will soon submit to inconvenience, misapprehension, and even exaction for the sake of doing good to those who are out of the way, and in the hope of edifying the people of God. Wine causes riot; the Spirit causes peace. Drunkenness causes contention; the Spirit of God causes submission.” ~Charles Spurgeon¹

¹Spurgeon, C. H. (1998). *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 35* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons. Albany, OR: Ages Software.