

Study Guide: "Walk Wisely"

Carter Sanger, Sep-09

Introduction

Read Ephesians 5:15-21.

- After each day of creation God said it was good. Why then does Paul call the days evil?

I. Walk Wisely: Be Intentional

Read verse 15-16.

- What is implied about God's creation by Paul's exhortation to *use* time?
- Would say you are more intentional or reactionary with your use of time? Would you characterize your time more of "putting out fires" or proactively working toward a future goal?
- Have you ever had moments when you looked back and wished you could use your time differently?

II. Walk Wisely: Be Discerning

Read verse 17.

- What is the measuring stick for foolishness and wisdom according to these verses?
- What is the measuring stick for the world's definition of wisdom and foolishness? How do you see yourself falling into this definition?
- When do you find yourself wanting to know the Lord's will?
- Discuss the difference between God's secret will (that which he has ordained to come to pass) and God's revealed will. How is it that God's revealed helps us in our daily choices? Can you give an example from your own life?

III. Walk Wisely: Be Filled with the Spirit

Read verse 18.

- Why do you think Paul instructs us not to get drunk with wine in the present context?
- Read Galatians 5:22-23. What is this list? What is last in this list? How does this contrast with being drunk with wine?

The command to be filled with the Spirit is a present, passive, imperative.

- What does the fact that it is an imperative mean for us?
- What does the fact that it is in the present tense mean for us? (In the Greek, present tense means continuous as opposed to completed action)
- What does the fact that it is passive mean for us?

Read verses 19-21. These are the results of being filled with the Spirit.

- When do you speak the psalms to one another? What kinds of things to the psalms speak of?
- Have you ever burst out in song? What did you feel at the time? What does this say about having a melody in your heart to the Lord?
- Do you find yourself grumbling or giving thanks more often?

Wrap-up

- How will you put yourself in a position to be filled with the Spirit this week?