

I. THE GIFT OF TIME

- A. Imagine you are given \$1,440 every morning. By the end of the day, whatever you don't use disappears forever. You can't save it, move it over to the next day, or get back what you wasted. You would spend every dollar carefully because you know it's valuable. Every day, God gives us something even more valuable, 1,440 minutes. Unlike money, once a minute is gone, it's gone forever. We can always make more money, but we can never make more time.
- B. This illustration fits so well with Paul's next exhortation to us, **"walking wisely by redeeming the time because the days are evil"**.
- C. The question isn't whether we have enough time; it's whether we're investing the time God has already given us in what matters most.
 - 1. *You don't determine the length of your life, but you do determine how you chose to use your time to live it.*
- D. In today's study Paul shows exactly how to steward one of the greatest gifts God has given us, and the one that can slip by so fast, time.

II. EPHESIANS 5:15-21

- 1. ¹⁵ ***See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,*** ¹⁶ ***redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*** ¹⁷ ***Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*** ¹⁸ ***And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,*** ¹⁹ ***speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,*** ²⁰ ***giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*** ²¹ ***submitting to one another in the fear of God.***

III. VRS 15

- 1. ¹⁵ ***See then that you walk circumspectly"***
- B. Paul calls the Ephesian believers to walk carefully because they lived in a culture that was openly opposed to God. The powerful influence of the

world around them continually sought to draw them away from God's revealed will and shape them according to its own values

- C. The greek word for circumspectly describes doing something with great care, precision, thoroughness, and attention to detail. Paul is not describing a walk that is fearful or apprehensive, but one that is intentional and focused.
 - 1. The word paints the picture of someone: Walking a narrow mountain trail without wandering, A craftsman measuring twice before cutting, An archer carefully aiming at the target. A navigator following a precise course.

IV. VRS 15B

1. ***"Not as fools but as wise"***

- B. I believe Paul is pointing back to the book of Proverbs where he compares and contrasts the wise and the foolish.
 - 1. "In Proverbs, the wise are not those who know the most, they are those who fear God the most. Fools are not people with low IQs; they are people who refuse God's instruction and ways.
- C. In this verse Paul contrasts two ways of walking: Foolishly or wisely. The fool drifts through life carelessly reacting to every circumstance, but the wise walk intentionally, carefully evaluating every word, every step, and every decision because the days are evil.

V. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF THE WISE AND FOOLISH

A. WISE JOSEPH

- 1. He fled temptation rather than entertaining it (Genesis 39).
- 2. He remained faithful when falsely accused.
- 3. He trusted God's timing through years of suffering.

4. He stewarded Egypt's resources wisely during the years of abundance.
5. He forgave those who sinned against him.

B. FOOLISH RICH MAN

1. ***¹⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: 'The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. ¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' ¹⁸ So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." ' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'²¹ "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." - Luke 12:16-21***

- C. The evidence that this man was a fool is revealed in the language he used. His vocabulary revolved around himself—"I," "my," and "mine"—while God was completely absent from his thinking. His life was consumed with building his own kingdom rather than seeking God's.

1. Fools plan for retirement, but never prepare for eternity.

VI. VRS 16

1. "Redeeming the time for the days are evil"

- B. Paul is not primarily teaching time management, but encouraging believers to seize every opportunity God provides for faithful living and gospel witness.
- C. To redeem the time is to make most of each day given to us in a way it will count for eternity.

VII. VRS 17

1. ***¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.***

B. Fools plan their own ways but the wise seek after God's ways. Time is only spent wisely when it's being used for God's will and purposes.

1. ***"So teach us to number our days, so that we may gain a heart of wisdom."-Ps 90:12***

2. ***"Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.'" -Jn 4:34***

VIII. VRS 18

1. ***¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,***

B. Paul continues to compare and contrast foolish and wise living by comparing two controlling influences: wine and the Holy Spirit.

C. Wine controls a person toward excess, The Holy Spirit controls a believer toward holy living.

D. We walk in wisdom when we allow the Holy Spirit to control our emotions, desires, appetites, fears, anxieties, money, anger ect.

E. As evil increases, there will be an intensifying battle for the hearts of God's people. Scripture warns that fear, lust, the cares of this life, spiritual indifference, and apathy will all compete for control of our hearts.

- a) ***But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. -Lk 21:34***

2. The question is not whether there will be a battle, but what will we allow to control our lives, Paul clearly tells us the answer, The Holy Spirit.

- a) **Walking wisely is not receiving more of the Spirit but allowing the Spirit to have more of us.**

IX. VRS 19

1. ***¹⁹speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,***

- B. Paul lists the evidence of a Spirit filled church including corporate singing, praise and thankfulness, and submission to one another in the fear of the Lord.
- C. Paul says that the first evidence of a Spirit filled church is singing that is *both vertical (to God) and horizontal (encouraging one another).*

X. WHY DO WE SING?

- A. There is a substantial and growing body of scientific research showing that **singing—especially singing with others—produces measurable effects on the brain, body, emotions, and even aspects of the immune system**
- B. Singing together unifies us, and brings strength to our spiritual family.
1. We sing because we have encountered God, we have been changed by God, and we continue to be blessed by God.
- C. Corporate singing is one of the clearest evidence of a redeemed people. Singing is an overflowing expression of a new and transformed life.

XI. THE GOSPEL AND SINGING

- A. **Singing is inseparably connected to the gospel.** It prepares hearts to receive it and it produces a worshipper because of it.
1. ***Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth.² Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.-Psalm 96:1-2***

B. John Piper teaches that the gospel creates worshipers because God's ultimate goal is not simply forgiven people, but people who delight in Him.

1. "Missions exist because worship doesn't."

C. The gospel gives us the reason to sing, the message we sing, the power to sing, and the Person we sing to.

1. ***The gospel is not only preached from the pulpit it is sung by the congregation.-anonymous***

XII. SINGING AT THE END OF THE AGE

A. Isaiah 24 is often called "Isaiah's Apocalypse" because it describes God's universal judgment on the whole earth.

B. The main theme of the chapter is that people of the earth have rejected God's laws, broken His covenant, and filled the earth with sin, God will bring worldwide judgment. No one—rich or poor, powerful or weak—will escape His righteous justice.

C. But in the midst of the chapter qqlsaiah hears songs all over the earth:

1. ***They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing;For the majesty of the LORDThey shall cry aloud from the sea.¹⁵ Therefore glorify the LORD in the dawning light,The name of the LORD God of Israel in the coastlands of the sea.¹⁶ From the ends of the earth we have heard songs:"Glory to the righteous!"- Is 24:14-16***

XIII. VRS 20-21

1. ***²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.***

B. Paul lays out the final evidence of being filled with the Spirit, a thankful heart and submitted heart in the fear of the Lord.

- C. When we are controlled by the Spirit we will relinquish control over others.
A person with a controlling spirit is a person who is not controlled by the Spirit but controlled by fear.