

Getting the Most Out of Life

May 7th & 8th, 2016

Ephesians 5:15-17

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ...”

Why should we be careful about how we live our lives? Because God has called us, chosen us, redeemed us, saved us, equipped us and has designed us for a purpose to accomplish according to His plan and will for our lives!

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Look carefully then how you walk...

Carefully: means being watchful, cautious, attentive

Carelessness: means negligent, unthinking, unaware, inattentive

Daniel 5 tells us of King Belshazzar of Babylon (a city thought to be impenetrable) held a drunken feast in which he took the gold vessels used in the temple of Jerusalem and drank wine from them with his wives and concubines while worshipping the gods of gold! That night he was killed and the Persians took control.

Not as unwise but as wise...

❖ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom!

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”

❖ Jesus grew in wisdom and stature at 12 years of age.

Luke 2:52 “And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.”

Wisdom: “Insight into the true nature of things...”¹

Making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

❖ God has designed things to be accomplished in our lives that have eternal significance! Satan, our adversary, is determined to frustrate God’s plan!

James 5:19-20 “My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”

Galatians 5:7-8 “You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion is not from Him who calls you.”

Luke 22:31-32 “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

❖ Hostility is rising against Christians! The days are certainly evil!

❖ God warned Israel about the nations they were to conquer. *Leviticus 18:1-3*

Deuteronomy 12:8-9 “You shall not do according to all that we are doing here today, everyone doing whatever is right in his own eyes, for you have not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance that the Lord your God is giving you.”

Deuteronomy 12:28 “Be careful to obey all these words that I command you, that it may go well with you and with your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the Lord your God.”

“I am wired by nature to love the same toys that the world loves. I start to fit in. I start to love what others love. I start to call earth ‘home.’ Before you know it, I am calling luxuries ‘needs’ and using my money just the way unbelievers do. I begin to forget the war. I don't think much about people perishing. Missions and unreached people drop out of my mind. I stop dreaming about the triumphs of grace. I sink into a secular mind-set that looks first to what man can do, not what God can do. It is a terrible sickness. And I thank God for those who have forced me again and again toward a wartime mind-set.”¹

Joshua 14:6-12

↳ Joshua and Caleb had an understanding of the call to conquer and the desire for God to display His glory to these nations!

Romans 8:37 “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

***Ephesians 5:17* “Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”**

❖ God's will for our lives is...

... Sanctification: a life separated to God for His purposes *1 Thessalonians 4:1-8*

... Suffering for doing good: a life lived for God under persecution *1 Peter 3:13-17*

... Sincerity: a life that displays integrity to God's Word *Matthew 7:21*

... Surrender: a life yielded to God's plan *Romans 12:1-2*

Jesus is our example of how to “Get the Most out of Life”

John 6:38-40 “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent me. And this is the will of Him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that He has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

Jesus said,
“... I came that they may have life
and have it abundantly”!
John 10:10

Endnotes:

¹ Vine, W.E. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

² Piper, John. *Don't Waste Your Life*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007. Print.

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