

Seated In Heavenly Places

A study in the book of Ephesians

Lesson Seven

“Walk in Wisdom”

As we begin this lesson, we see Paul asking us to respond appropriately to all he has warned us about previously. We have looked at all the ways we are now to “walk” through this life in response to all that we have been given in Christ, all that He has done for us and this new life we now have in Him. Now, as we reflect on all this knowledge, Paul wants us to add **wisdom** to our “walk.”

Prayerfully read Ephesians 5:15 through to 6:9.

1. Write down Paul’s instruction in Ephesians 5:15.
2. Look up the word **circumspectly** in the dictionary and record the definition below.
3. Now, write down in your own words what you think it means to “walk circumspectly.” How would you describe that to someone?
4. In the last half of verse 15, how does Paul describe the **opposite** of walking circumspectly? What does he call it?
5. What further instruction does he give us in verse 16? Write the verse down below.

There are two ancient Greek words used for “time.” One has the sense of time being day by day, hour by hour, minute by minute. The other word used has the idea of a portion of time, a span or “season” of time. That is the word used here.

Paul isn’t asking us to make the most of every day, or every moment (although that isn’t bad advice). What he is saying is for us to be aware of this **season** of time we are in, and to “redeem” it. The idea of “redeeming the time” means to “buy up” opportunities like a shrewd businessman; to make the most of every opportunity we have to share the love of Christ and the truth of the Gospel to a desperate, needy, dying world.

6. Why does Paul tell us to grab hold of, and “redeem” or seize the opportunities we have in this “**season of time**” that we are in? What reason does he give in verse 16?

7. We can all certainly attest to the fact that we are in a season of increasingly evil days. How did Jesus describe these evil days in Matthew 24:4-14? Jot down some of the things Jesus warned his disciples to expect, and that we need to be aware of as well.

8. What does 2 Timothy 3:1-7 add to this? List some of the things Paul describes concerning the perilous times coming in the last days.

9. What is the warning that Jesus gives in verse 4 of Matthew 24?

10. Paul gives a similar warning in Ephesians 5:17. Write it down.

11. How do we come to know God’s will? What is the main source for us to gain that knowledge? Look up 2 Timothy 2:15 and 3:16-17 and record these verses below.

2 Timothy 2:15:

2 Timothy 3:16-17:

12. Becoming a diligent student of God’s Word is vital to our understanding what the “will of God” is. But having an **intellectual knowledge** of the Bible is not enough. Go back to Paul’s prayer for the Ephesian church in Ephesians 1:17-19. **Who** does Paul claim in this prayer is the **Source** of our gaining wisdom?

13. In Ephesians 5:18 Paul shows us the **contrast** between being filled with the Spirit and being drunk with wine. Paul says being drunk with wine is “dissipation.” Look up the word “dissipation” and record the definitions you find below.

14. Jesus also talks about dissipation in Luke 21:34. What does He say in this verse? (Translated as “carousing” in the NKJV).

Several translations, including the NKJV use the word “carousing,” in this verse, but in the NASB, ESV, and some other versions the word used here is translated “dissipation.” The word “carouse” means to “drink up” or drink excessively. The Greek word used in this verse and in Ephesians 5:18 actually refers to the headache of a hangover after being intoxicated.

15. What does Paul tell us in Ephesians 5:18 to do instead?

Paul’s grammar in Ephesians 5:18 makes clear that he is saying we need to be

“constantly being filled.” As we’ve stated in many of our past studies, the filling of the Holy Spirit is not a one-time thing. Concerning this verse, David Guzik explains, **“Much of the weakness, defeat and lethargy in our spiritual life can be attributed to the fact that we are not constantly being filled with the Holy Spirit.”** He goes on to say that **“The ancient Greek grammar for *be filled* also indicates two other important things. First, the verb is *passive*, so this is not a **manufactured experience**. Second, it is *imperative*, so this is not an **optional experience**.”**

16. In Acts 1:4 & 5, what did Jesus ask His disciples to do?

17. Look up Acts 4:31. According to the last half of that verse, what did **being filled with the Holy Spirit** enable them to do?

18. How important this must be in our sharing the Gospel and being a witness of all that Christ has done for us to a lost and dying world. Are you daily asking the Lord to **fill you afresh** with His Spirit? If this is not your daily habit, it’s time to start making it one. Stop and write out a prayer to the Lord asking Him to fill you with His Spirit and empower you to be a bold witness for Him, “buying up” the opportunities He gives you to share His truth and love with others each day. Use a separate sheet of paper or your journal if needed.

19. In verses 19 through 21 of Ephesians, chapter 5, we see some of the **evidences** of those who are filled with the Holy Spirit. What are some of the **observable evidences** we see in these verses?

20. As we read on to the end of chapter 5 and into chapter 6, we find that being filled with the Holy Spirit should affect **ALL of our relationships**. We cannot

have this sweet relationship with God and be at odds in our relationships with others. As we begin this next section, we need to understand that being filled with God's Spirit will have a profound effect in **every relationship** we have. What does Romans 5:5 tell us the Holy Spirit has done for us?

a. Do you see evidence of this in your life?

b. How has the infilling of the Holy Spirit affected your other relationships?

21. As we move on to Ephesians 5:22, the first relationship Paul focuses on is our relationship with our spouse. Read through verses 22 – 33. The emphasis in these verses is on the **picture** that marriage should be of **Christ and the Church**. With this in mind, as you read through these verses, explain in your own words how a godly marriage is a reflection of Christ's relationship with His church.

22. It is really mind-boggling to think that God desires this kind of intimacy with us. Record Jesus' words in His prayer to the Father in John 17:21-23.

a. How did Jesus say God loves us at the end of John 17:23?

23. When we are in a marriage relationship our lives are joined together with that other person. We share all things in common. What belongs to us now belongs to our spouse as well, and what belongs to him, now belongs to us. All that we possess in Christ is because of this relationship we have with Him, and because of this oneness that we have in marriage, which Paul speaks of in Ephesians 5:31, how are we to treat one another according to Ephesians 5:29? (Although Paul is speaking to husbands here, what he is saying applies to both parties in this one-flesh relationship).

24. The next relationship Paul speaks about is of children to their parents. I think that we can safely say that Ephesians 6:1 pertains to underage children still in the home and under their parent's authority. How does Paul tell these children they are to respond in their relationship with their parents?

a. How is this obedience to be given to parents according to this verse?

Finish the **middle part** of Paul's instruction:

Children, obey your parents _____.

b. Why is this obedience to be given to parents according to the end of this verse?

Note that Paul isn't saying for children to obey their parents only if their parents are in the Lord. He is saying that obeying their parents is a part of **their own, personal obedience to Christ**.

25. Moving to Ephesians 6:2, this command is given to all children of **all ages**. Write out the command of verse 2 & the promise of verse 3 connected to it.

a. How would you describe this **verb form** of the word "honor?" What does that mean to you?

26. In Ephesians 6:4, Paul turns his attention to the parent's relationship with their children. What warning does Paul give here?
27. As you read on in verses 5 through 9, how do these same principles apply to masters and servants, or employees and employers? How are employees to relate to their bosses according to verses 5 through 7?
28. What encouragement does Paul give in verse 8 to those under authority to another, (be it a parent, an employer or other authority figure)? What should our perspective be?
29. What is the command that Paul gives to "masters" or employers in verse 9?
30. As we look back at the end of verse 9, what important principle do we find that we all need to remember in our relationships with others, regardless of the position we might hold?
31. Going back to the last part of verse 7, how are we to conduct ourselves in ALL of our relationships? What is the important principle given here?

As to the Lord means that all our work is really done unto the Lord, not unto man. **"Grace makes us the servants of God while still we are the servants of men: it enables us to do the business of**

heaven while we are attending to the business of earth: it sanctifies the common duties of life by showing us how to perform them in the light of heaven.” (Spurgeon)

32. As you consider all of your relationships, look up and prayerfully read the exhortation of James in James 3:13-17. After reading these verses, write out verse 17 below.

34. What is the final conclusion of James concerning our relationships according to James 3:18? Write the verse down.

35. What ministered most to your heart in Lesson 7?

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” (Proverbs 9:10)

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.” (James 3:13)