

Wise or Unwise; Ephesians 5:17-19

I. Look Carefully

A. How are we walking as Christians

1. We are admonished to pay special (careful) attention to our lives
2. So this morning it is time for some deep reflection on your behavior this past week
3. Not vague notions like good verses bad, but details on your thoughts and actions towards friends, relatives, neighbors, and those who you interacted with
4. What was your speech like?
 - a) Crude joking
 - b) Filthy or foolish talk

B. In the beginning of chapter 5 we are encouraged to “walk in love”

C. We are to give ourselves up (our lives) as a fragrant offering to God

II. Will of the Lord

A. What is the will of the Lord

B. “The Lord’s Prayer” in Matthew 6

C. Is that really such a hard question to answer

D. Clearly, God wants us to understand it

E. Ephesians 5:15–17; 15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

F. If we fail to understand what the will of the Lord is, then we are foolish

G. God has a lot to say about those who are foolish

1. Lack of prudence or good judgement
2. Matthew 7:26–27; 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”
3. The parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13
4. Romans 1:29–32; 29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

H. “Will” - what one wishes to happen (in this case, God), either by their own actions or the actions of others

I. What does God want us to do?

1. Jesus knew God’s will - Matthew 26:42; Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”
2. We can know God’s will
 - a) Some scriptures plainly tell us what God’s will is
 - b) 1 Thessalonians 5:15–18; 15 See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
 - c) 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
 - d) Some take a little study to figure it out

- e) Romans 12:2; Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
 - f) Romans 12:9-21
 - g) Romanos 12:9-21
 - J. God's will is clearly evident and not in some vague way
 - K. These are things that we can do everyday and are considered wise by God
- III. Wise or Unwise
- A. "Foolish" is used as the opposite of Godly wisdom in 1 Corinthians 1:20-27 (and synonymous with worldly wisdom)
 - B. Ephesians 5:15; Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,
 - C. We often hear the phrase, "follow your heart"
 - 1. Proverbs 12:15; The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.
 - 2. Proverbs 14:12; There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.
 - 3. Matthew 15:16–20; 16 And he said, "Are you also still without understanding? 17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? 18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. 20 These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone."
 - D. Without God's wisdom we choose death, but with God's wisdom we choose life
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 2:6-16
 - 2. To listen to our hearts is foolishness
 - 3. To listen to God is wisdom
 - 4. Luke 6:46–48; 46 "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? 47 Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.
 - 5. Deuteronomy 30:15–20; 15 "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. 16 If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. 17 But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, 20 loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."
 - E. Everyday we have a choice
- IV. Life or Death
- A. Wise or unwise
 - B. Listen to our hearts or to the Lord