Walk in Wisdom, Eph 5:15–21

April 15

INTRODUCTION: In Eph pt. ii on behaviour, Paul has covered unity, the new life and now Christian living, or how we should walk. Believers imitate God and follow Christ (4:1, 5:1) by walking in love and light, but also in wisdom.

KEY WORD: wisdom, time, will, drunk, Spirit-filled, speaking, singing, thanking, submitting

REVIEW: Chs. 1–3, Belief; chs 4–6, Behaviour

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Mt 6:25–34, Looking, Trusting and Following the Master, Adam Heida)

- What was the sermon about?
- What were the key points?
- Key takeaways…? Questions to keep considering?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Ministering to Muslims, B. Zegers)

- What is Islam, its history, beliefs, etc?
- How many Muslims are there in Canada/Markdale?
- How is Christianity and Islam different?
- What are effective ways to share the Gospel with Muslims?

READ: Eph 5:15–21

QUESTIONS

Watch your walk/Walking Wisely (some contrasts)

1. *Interpretive key: walk= how you live/follow Christ.*
2. **How does a cat walk along a dangerous wall/ledge? What happens if it doesn't pay attention?**
3. **How does the world walk, do they pay attention?**
4. **What things do people fuss over/fixate upon? What does Paul mean that believers should we focus on living wisely?**
5. *Paul gives two marks of wise living: time and God's will.*
6. **V. 16b- How do foolish people spend their time?**
7. **V. 16a- Rather than engaging in vain (4:17) and evil ways, what should believers do with their time? (Or, in what should they invest their time in?) (c.f. v. 9, 17).**
8. *You may have heard of the phrase 'redeem the time.' This probably comes from this verse.* **What does this mean?**
9. *God's revelation is both general (creation) and special (the Bible). God's will is both general (the Bible) and particular (What should I do when I grow up? Who should I marry?).* **Why must we know God's general will if we want to walk wisely? How can we grow in this?** *(Again, learning how we apply God's will to our life circumstances is wisdom).*

Walking Wisely Means Not Getting Drunk but Being Spirit-Filled

10. V.18a- How widespread is drunkenness (and drugs) today? Why do people drink?
11. **When 'under the influence' what do we lose control of? What does this often lead to?**[1]
12. **Why is drunkenness sin? How can it be avoided?**
13. *Rather than drinking wine we ought to be filled ('drink') with the Spirit.* **If through drink we lose control/act foolishly, what opposite effect does the Spirit have? What fruit of the Spirit is this (Gal 5)?**
14. **How is 'filled with the Spirit' sometimes misunderstood and abused today?**
15. *To help us combat these but also positively obey this command consider the following about the verb 'fill': a) it is imperative (a command for believers), b) plural (applies to all believers), c) passive (something we invite), and 4) present tense (a continuous action, vs. past tense which means a completed action). All believers received the Spirit at conversion (Eph 1:13).* **How do we go on being filled?**[2]
16. *Illustration of #15. Both infants and adults have lungs.* **How do their lungs differ?**
17. *There have been a series of commands in this passage (e.g. look, don't be foolish, don't drink, be filled). Now there are four*

[1] Debauchery means 'unsavedness; spiritual wastefulness; bad excessive behaviour and its dire consequences.

[2] E.g. We are saved by faith and then go on walking by faith (Gal 5:16); & means of grace. Like getting drunk sip by sip, we're filled step by step.

participles that describe the fruit of being filled. They are largely about our relationships.

18. *#1- addressing*- **When we sing in corporate worship, how do we not only sing to the Lord but address each other?**
19. *'Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs': psalms refer to Old Testament psalms, hymns to structured written songs (e.g. v. 14b) and spiritual songs to spontaneously composed choruses.*
20. *#2- singing*- **How should this verse help those who don't think they can sing?** Where does musical worship begin?
21. *#3- thanking*- How is thankfulness the opposite of grumbling? **How is an awareness of God's providence (Gen 50:20; Ro 8:28) help us accept <u>everything</u> from Him in faith?** Why do we pray 'in Jesus' name'?
22. *#4- submitting (coming under God's arrangement)*- While Paul will go on to give specific examples of submission in the Christian life, here he speaks generally. **How is humility (Phil 2:3) and love (self-sacrificial preference for other's welfare) marks of mutual-submission?** Why is Christ the ultimate reason we submit to others?
23. **How can we use these criteria to evaluation someone's salvation or sanctification? (i.e. if we aren't doing these we aren't submitting to Christ).**
24. **How does the Spirit empower all of these? How are they miraculous?**

NEXT WEEK: April 22- God's Way: Families, Eph 6:1–4