

July 17, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Eph. 5:15-17 *Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.* (NIV)

There might not be a more apropos word for us than these words from the LORD through the apostle Paul. Are you living as a wise person or an unwise one? The scripture reminds us that everyone is born as a fool. **Pv. 22:15** *Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child.* (NIV) As a believer, we have turned our foolishness over to the reign of the real King. **Pv. 1:7** *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.* (NIV) So there is a clear distinction between wisdom and foolishness. The distinction is knowing and walking with the LORD. Paul reminds the believers in Ephesus to be very careful. The word here means to pause and give this important matter your full attention. There is an interesting term that has appeared within the last few years. It is ‘impulse buying.’ This is buying something on emotional or irrational thinking. Have you ever bought something you didn’t really need? Paul is basically saying, ‘you need to think this through.’ You either need to live for God, or not live for Him at all. The LORD demands all of you. He doesn’t want to be LORD of most of your life, but all of it. If He is not LORD of all, then He’s not LORD at all. James, the half-brother of Jesus put it this way in **James 1:22-25** *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.* (NIV) This is why we need to walk worthy of the calling, walk in the light, put off the works of the flesh, imitate the LORD, and forgive as Christ forgave us. These are all signs of the One Who is LORD of all.

Dear LORD, help us to be wise and not foolish. We need to walk in Your wisdom and understanding. We can only do this in the power of Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus Name, Amen