

May 2, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Eph. 5:15-16 *Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. (NIV)*

In this passage, Paul challenges us to walk in the light and not in the darkness. The things we think, say and do are all very important. In fact, one of the most enlightening words was given in **James 1:19**, *My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. (NIV)* If we are not very careful, we tend to not listen, immediately speak up and become hurt or angry. This is how the unwise live. But those with the Holy Spirit at the control-center of their lives, can break the chain of worldly living and live wisely. This then brings opportunities into our path--to share His love, to lift up others by encouragement, to give and not take, and to love and not hate. I think it is critical for us to remember this profound statement. People that are lost are not the enemy. Satan is the enemy; they are the prize. Those that walk in wisdom see beyond the temporary. They realize that there is a spiritual battle going on. Paul later reminds us to be strong in the LORD and in the power of His might. So we are to be very careful. Careless words can cause permanent scars. Some say, "think before you speak." It is even better to listen to the Spirit before you speak. My thinking is not always right, but His wisdom is always there if we will but seek Him.

Paul then exhort us to make the most of every opportunity. This is also translated as 'redeeming the time.' In other words, once this moment is gone, it is gone forever. We are to look at every moment as an opportunity to exalt the Savior and tell of His wonderful works. We are to lift up and encourage those around us. We are to share the love of God with those who do not yet know it. **Heb. 10:24** *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (NIV)*

Dear Faithful Father, help us to walk in the light. Help us to see things from Your perspective, which is wisdom. Lead us by Your Spirit to go to those who have no hope. Speak through us, touch through us and love through us. In Jesus Name, Amen