

## You Don't Want to Miss It

Ephesians 5:15-17 Sunday AM, January 7, 2024

**Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 5:7-17** (NASB95) Therefore do not be partakers with them; 8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light 9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; 12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. 14 For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you." 15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us. Loving others THIS way demands change of focus—from them, from yourself to God. To imitate His love necessitates constantly looking to Him—studying His love even as you have a growing awareness of being a recipient of this great love. This love is a love like none other. How do we know? It was pleasing to God—an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. Do YOU care to be pleasing to God? Then look to God and imitate Christ's love—yes, what you've studied/pondered/worshipped, but our passage goes on to show additional identifiers of this love. No immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting. Why? Because these things don't fit in God's kingdom—practice these and YOU are take part in not only what is excluded, but elicits God's righteous wrath. Shudder, fight to get away from these things, but also, run toward what you have rightly learned. If saved, you are children of light. You are not the light, but are Light in the Lord. Therefore, walk as children of Light—look to the One who is Light and follow. What does walking in light include? 9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), This negatively means that you will not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead, will expose them. But you don't merely uncover the wrong, your life is FILLED with one focus—10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. This is not merely an intention, a desire, it is a way of life. Sing this disposition.

### Hymn #313 (Red): Stepping in the Light

This way of life necessitates careful attention. There is much to remember and live leading our passage to remind us to be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. But you aren't to do all this alone. You are imitating Christ. He, the holy One calls you the unholy to continue to look to Him—why? Yes, to imitate, but also because He is the enabler! He is able first to make you holy through His redemptive work on your behalf so He can be with you and not against you, but He also daily gives all needed to fight everything not holy so God is seen in the world through you. All your hope to be with God AND pleasing to God comes from fixing your gaze on Christ. Continue to learn this song of perspective and testimony with me.

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): I Set My Hope \*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: Twenty-Three Scripture: Proverbs 1:1–33** (NASB95) The

proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: 2 To know wisdom and instruction, To discern the sayings of understanding, 3 To receive instruction in wise behavior, Righteousness, justice and equity; 4 To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion, 5 A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel, 6 To understand a proverb and a figure, The words of the wise and their riddles. 7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction. 8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction And do not forsake your mother's teaching; 9 Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head And ornaments about your neck. 10 My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. 11 If they say, "Come with us, Let us lie in wait for blood, Let us ambush the innocent without cause; 12 Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, Even whole, as those who go down to the pit; 13 We will find all kinds of precious wealth, We will fill our houses with spoil; 14 Throw in your lot with us, We shall all have one purse," 15 My son, do not walk in the way with them. Keep your feet from their path, 16 For their feet run to evil And they hasten to shed blood. 17 Indeed, it is useless to spread the baited net in the sight of any bird; 18 But they lie in wait for their own blood; They ambush their own lives. 19 So are the ways of everyone who gains by violence; It takes away the life of its possessors. 20 Wisdom shouts in the street, She lifts her voice in the square; 21 At the head of the noisy streets she cries out; At the entrance of the gates in the city she utters her sayings: 22 "How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing And fools hate knowledge? 23 "Turn to my reproof, Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. 24 "Because I called and you refused, I stretched out my hand and no one paid attention; 25 And you neglected all my counsel And did not want my reproof; 26 I will also laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your dread comes, 27 When your dread comes like a storm And your calamity comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you. 28 "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently but they will not find me, 29 Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD. 30 "They would not accept my counsel, They spurned all my reproof. 31 "So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way And be satiated with their own devices. 32 "For the waywardness of the naive will kill them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them. 33 "But he who listens to me shall live securely And will be at ease from the dread of evil."

**Offering: \*Doxology: Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise.** Proverbs 1 speaks to the heart of wisdom. 5 A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel. Are you wise in this way? We look not merely for wisdom, but wisdom sourced in the fear of God. God is not merely the center of our religion, He is the source of all—all life, all truth. To seek life and truth outside/apart from Him is to settle for less and is foolish. So church, Worship the King! Notice why as we sing. Note His wonderful love. Study it, speak of it. God is a shield—to whom? how? Think in verse 3 about His bountiful care—so great that what tongue can recite?! Can you talk not merely of your experiences, but biblical evidence of God's care? Sing, worship, and live the work of understanding and knowing the King—He is all glorious above!

### Hymn #10: O Worship the King

**You may Be seated.** Be careful to be wise, making the most of your time. Now we speak of value. Are you doing what heaven considers valuable? 8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction And do not forsake your mother's teaching; Those under your parent's roof, are you doing this? Those outside, are you listening to those God would have you listen to? Wisdom shouts in the street . . . 22 "How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing And fools hate knowledge? 23 "Turn to my reproof, Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. 24 "Because I called and you refused, I stretched out my hand and no one paid attention; 25 And you neglected all my counsel And did not want my reproof; Are you listening, responding—or are you RIGHT, your world so small that all the people around you including those here aren't part of God's solution to hear His Word. What would those around you desire to change in your life? Do you know what they think concerning the course of your life? By what standard will you evaluate what they say? Do you know God's Word and are careful sitting under it, evaluating all knowledge and correction in view of it? We relearned this old chorus a few weeks ago. Sing it as we prepare for the message.

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): Refiner's Fire**

**Message: You Don't Want to Miss It Eph. 5:15-17**

**\*Hymn #460: All the Way My Savior Leads Me**

**\*Prayer**