

WARM UP | Have you ever been in the kitchen barefoot, and then just as you reach out to grab that cup or glass on the end of the shelf, you knock it slightly and... smash!!! I have to admit I have done that more than once! When that happens, I know that to fetch the dustpan and brush I need to walk across the kitchen floor very circumspectly, very carefully. Why? Because I don't want to cause myself any unnecessary harm! Guess what? – that is wisdom. If I just walked over the glass, and ended up cutting my feet, I would be acting very foolishly, and yet it would have been my own failure to walk carefully that caused the injury! As Christians living in an increasingly evil world, we must conduct our walk very carefully if we want to redeem the time and make an impact in eternity.



3 Many Christians wander around with no real assurance of God's specific will for their life. What do you feel God's calling on your life is? What gifts and abilities has God given you? How are you functioning within the body of Christ, as a vital and essential member?

CONSIDER THIS |

How can I be effective in my Christian walk? The simple answer to that question is in Ephesians 5:15-17, and is this - "walk wisely, time is short". The first part is the answer; the second part is the motivation to do it. I know in my own life, it's not that I don't know what to do that is my problem, it's actually doing it! Maybe you can relate? One pastor put it this way, "We are in danger of becoming the most intellectually stimulated - but spiritually ineffective generation in history". What makes the difference is actually living what we learn, and applying what we know. This is rubber-meets-the-road Christianity.



READ | Ephesians 5:15-17

BACKGROUND |

As Paul wrote to the believers at Ephesus, he was writing to Christians who were living in a very wealthy city. It was a city totally given over to the idolatrous and sensual worship of the goddess Diana. This meant that the believers Paul addressed had the tempting pull of the world all around them, both materially and sensually. In verses 15-17 of chapter 5, Paul challenges the believers to think about their conduct in light of eternity.



QUESTIONS |

- The word "circumspectly" (v15) is not a word we use much today. It means to be very careful. What are some significant areas of life in which Christians need to conduct themselves very carefully?
- What kind of opportunities do you have to "redeem the time" now, that may not be available to you at a later stage in life? How much of a priority are they in your life right now?

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER |

What do I need to apply from what I have learned from this study?

IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER |

WRAP UP | As a group, share one major decision each of you needs to make in the near future, and pray for wisdom for each other and the Lord's guidance in that decision.

