

Living with Opposition
Ephesians 5:15-21
Sunday a.m. 5/21/2017

- ❖ It has never been easy to live for Christ
- ❖ Paul tells us to “walk circumspectly”, pay careful attention to how we live our life as Christians **(5:15)**
- ❖ We can find ourselves stumbling in our walk with Christ

Why?

- ❖ The days are evil (poneros); active influence against what is evil **(5:16)**

✚ The questions we must answer for ourselves:

- ✪ “Do I want to live for Christ if it is so difficult?”
- ✪ “Is it possible to live for Christ when it is so difficult?”

- ❖ It is difficult to live in a world of opposition, but we can!
 - We need to have wisdom
 - We need to take every opportunity
 - We need to know God’s will
 - We need to be Spirit filled
 - We need to live in community

■ Live in Wisdom (5:15b)

- ❖ To be unwise is to “lack the power of proper discernment.”
- ❖ The wisdom we need to live for Christ is not what the world defines as wisdom; intelligence or education

Spiros Zodhiates

“It denotes a fear of God and an understanding of His ways. Biblical wisdom signifies the ability to apply with skill what one knows, especially spiritual truth.”

Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

“The wisdom which Paul speaks of is not simply a head knowledge of deep spiritual truths. True spiritual wisdom must affect our daily life.”

- ✚ We need wisdom to live a godly life, to keep us out of trouble
- ✚ We need wisdom to make practical decisions in life
- ✚ We need wisdom so we can understand and apply scripture

James 3:13 (NKJV)

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

■ Live for Each Opportunity (5:16)

redeeming the time - exagorazo; Making the most, buy up

❖ Solomon gives great advice

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NKJV)

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.

❖ We do not need to waste time God has given us to serve Him

✚ **We waste time when we pursue things that God does not want us to pursue**

❖ We need to wisely use the time God has given us

H. A. Ironside

"Time is given us to use in view of eternity."

“Wasting the gift of time insults the Giver of time.”

✚ **Redeeming the time calls for a Spirit controlled sense of urgency"**

■ Live in the Lord's Will (5:17)

❖ We must know God's will in order to live for Christ

⊗ **The unwise or foolish person makes bad decisions due to a lack of common sense**

✚ He has no care or thought for what his decisions will cause in the future

✚ He has no concern for self-discipline

✚ He has no understanding of practical decisions in life

⊗ **The unwise does not understand God's will for their life**

understand - The idea is to put together "pieces of the puzzle"

❖ The unwise is unable to connect the dots

⊗ **We must be able to connect the dots of biblical truth in order to live a victorious life for Jesus**

Example:

Ephesians 4:22-24

❖ This is God's will for our life and we must understand this

■ Live in the Spirit (5:18)

• The filling of the Holy Spirit is not the baptism of the Holy Spirit

• The filling of the Holy Spirit is not getting more of the Holy Spirit

⊗ **The filling of the Holy Spirit is the relinquishing of our self and allowing God to control our life**

✚ I cannot be filled with the Spirit and live my life in the flesh

✚ I cannot be filled with the Spirit and resist God's will for myself

✚ I cannot be filled with the Spirit and have unconfessed, active sin

⊗ **There must be a desire, a hunger to be filled in order to have a closeness to Christ and accomplish God's will in our life**

“The filling of the Spirit is that state in which the Holy Spirit is free to do all that He came into my life to do.”

A W Tozer

The filling of the Holy Spirit brings a sharp separation between the believer and the world.

❖ We can only understand the Word with the help of the Holy Spirit

✚ Jesus said, “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth.” **John 16:13**

John MacArthur

If we do not obey this command, we cannot obey any other—simply because we cannot do any of God’s will apart from God’s Spirit.

❖ It is impossible to carry out the commands of God’s Word without the filling of the Holy Spirit

❖ Men, here is an impossible command for us to do on our own

Ephesians 5:25 (NKJV)

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her

❖ This is a present imperative command to continually love our wives

❖ Paul makes it harder...as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her

✪ **The filling of the Holy Spirit is not a onetime event, but a daily, continual part of our Christian life**

■ Live in Community (5:19-21)

❖ Church is a community of gathered believers...the ekklesia

✪ **We receive from community what we cannot receive anywhere else**

Here are some benefits of community:

- ✚ Fellowship with one another
- ✚ Worship of God together
- ✚ Use of spiritual gifts
- ✚ Ministry to physical and emotional needs (sickness and death)
- ✚ Intentional bible study opportunities

Invitation

Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV)

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

- **Judgment for believers**

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

- **Judgment for unbelievers**

Revelation 20:11-15

- **Those involved**

✚ The dead, small and great, that did not trust Christ **(20:12)**

NOTE: The saved are with Jesus. Salvation is not in question.

- ❖ Their names were not written the book of life **(20:12)**
- ❖ The other book lists their evil works, by which they are judged
- ❖ Then death and hades were thrown into the Lake of Fire

Matthew 25:41 (NKJV)

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: