

MAKING THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY

March 22, 2020

Last week we talked about our state of being in troubled times... Is it characterized by worry and fear, or trust and peace in God. We looked at Psalm 91.

This week we are going to talk about not only our state of being, but our state of living. How are we to live in this current season?

RECAP:

John 16:33 (NIV) - *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

Psalm 91:1–2 (NLT)

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him.

- The shelter of the Most High is not a place you have to get to by yourself, but a reality you live in as a believer, because Jesus got you there.

Ephesians 2:5–7 (NIV)

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:2–4 (NIV)

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. How is your life different?

Out of that state of being, trust God and focus on what is in front of us, at peace and rest, how do we live practically?

Ephesians 5:15–17 (NIV)

15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Context: We are called to live faithfully in a context of spiritual crisis

The way to live with wisdom is by making the most of every opportunity

While we are in a time of crisis that is impacting our world, it is wise to ask how can I make the most of this opportunity.

1. Be more careful...

- "See that you walk carefully with exactness", not carelessly.

2. Be more intentional...

- intentional with how we live with the time we have and the resources we have with the people around us...
- What is God's will for my life right now?
- Let's leverage the opportunities this outbreak is giving...
 - perhaps it's to be alone... read, study, pray.
 - perhaps it's to reach out intentionally your previous haven't.
 - call/text/email a few people each day.
 - to be more health conscious
 - perhaps it's an opportunity to show love to those more impacted than you.

3. Be more prayerful

- being filled with His Spirit not under the influence of other messages in our world
 - intoxicated by certain ideas, that do not give hope or victory in our lives.
- It's not a time to shrink back in fear, but pray in faith, believing that God is working in the midst of this outbreak.
- Be filled with the Spirit leads to being joyful in song.

4. **Be more thankful**

- There is no use complaining about what you cannot control
- being thankful protects us from entitlement, complaining, and despair... keeps you emotionally healthy
- It's calls us to look at the blessings we have and turn it into praise and gratitude to God.
- You may have been negatively impacted, but what can you give thanks for?