



LIVING GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

“Walking in Wisdom”

Sermon Date: March 13th, 2022

Reflections on Sunday’s Sermon

Below is a reference to the section of the New City Catechism that we went over on Sunday:

The New City Catechism—Lord’s Day 11

What Does God Require in the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Commandments?

Sixth, that we do not hurt, or hate, or be hostile to our neighbor, but be patient and peaceful, pursuing even our enemies with love. Seventh, that we abstain from sexual immorality and live purely and faithfully, whether in marriage or in single life, avoiding all impure actions, looks, words, thoughts, or desires, and whatever might lead to them. Eighth, that we do not take without permission that which belongs to someone else, nor withhold any good from someone we might benefit.

Prayer

Praise God who has lifted us up out of our sin and placed us on solid ground. Praise Jesus who is our wisdom and thus makes us wise. Praise the Holy Spirit who is leading us into the knowledge and application of His truth. As you pray, consider making this prayer your own (this prayer was taken from The Valley of Vision a Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions).

Deliver me from worldly dispositions, for I am born from above and bound for glory. May I view and long after holiness as the beauty and dignity of the soul. Let me never slumber, never lose assurance, never fail to wear armor when passing through enemy land. Fit me for every scene and circumstance; stay my mind upon thee and turn my trials to blessings, that they may draw out my gratitude and praise as I see their design and effects. Render my obedience to thy will holy, natural, and delightful. Rectify all my principles by clear, consistent, and influential views of divine truth. Let me never undervalue or neglect any part of thy revealed will. Balance my mind in all varying circumstances and help me to cultivate a disposition that renders every duty a spiritual privilege. Thus may I be content, be a glory to thee and an example to others.

Scripture

Ephesians 5:15-17 (ESV)

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Handling the Word

Let's break down the passage:

1. As children of light, how are we to walk (v.15)?
2. As saints, what should we do with the time we have on earth (v.16)?
3. Why should we make the best use of our time on earth (v. 16)?
4. Given verses 15 and 16, what should we avoid and what should we understand (v. 17)?

Understanding and Applying

1. We might say, given that we are children of light (Ephesians 5:7), that we are to walk as children of light (5:8-9), and that the Lord uses His light in us to redeem sinners (5:13-14), we are called to ‘look carefully’ how we walk—our lifestyle or behavior (5:15). What tends to distract you from thinking about and looking into the way you’re living before God? How might you need to reconsider your words, actions, or priorities in certain relationships so that you might be a witness to Christ and to the fruit of salvation (Matthew 5:16; Colossians 4:5-6)?
2. Looking carefully into how we walk, we are to walk in wisdom rather than foolishness (v. 15). Why are saints wise and able to walk in wisdom—the knowledge *and* application of truth for life (1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Peter 1:3-4)? If walking in wisdom is the fruit rather than the pursuit of our redemption, how does this mindset shape the way we read the book of Proverbs?
3. Considering question #2, though we are wise in Christ, is there a sin, weakness, relationship, or area in your life where you are currently walking unwisely and not applying the truths of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17; James 1:5)? Please share. What have been the negative consequences of not applying the wisdom of Christ to your circumstances (guilt, discouragement, disunity, distrust, sin, etc.)?
4. Being made wise in Christ, we are to make the ‘best use of’ our ‘time, because the days are evil’ (v.16). As saints, we get to use our time wisely rather than let it waste away in a fallen world. Has your salvation led you to reconsider what is worth your time and attention and what is not? Please share. How is evil—Satan (the deceiver), the flesh (indwelling sin), or the world (worldly pursuits)—attempting to steal or waste your time?

5. Given our redemption in Christ, we are empowered to redeem our time for the Lord. What are some activities (leisurely or not), entertainments, perspectives, or desires that *could* or *will* draw you or your family away from the things that truly matter to God, such as a godly life or home, fellowship with God's people, ministry, and so on? Further, are there specific areas in your life where you could make better use of your time? Please share.
6. Though not all encompassing, based on the passages below what is the will of the Lord?
- John 17:20-21
 - Romans 8:28-30
 - Ephesians 3:9-11
7. To walk in wisdom and make the best use of our time, we are called to 'understand what the will of the Lord is' (v. 17). How should the passages in question #6 shape our priorities as a member of Christ's church? As child of God? Why is Romans 8:28-30 *comforting* and *freeing* when we don't know God's specific will regarding matters in our lives?
8. To close, why are you thankful that God has made you wise in Christ and thus enables you to walk in wisdom, redeem the time, and know His will?

"From Ephesians 4:17, Paul has described the shape and the style of the life that is pleasing to God. This new life is the practical evidence of our new birth by the Spirit of Christ. Where this new life is absent, the Spirit of Christ cannot be present. New birth produces new life. This new life does not just happen but is the inevitable fruit of the indwelling presence of Christ to whom we have been united by faith, a union that is marked by our being "dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:11; Eph. 2:10)."

-Ian Hamilton