

# Walking in Wisdom

Ephesians 5:15-21

Proverbs 2

Galatians 5:16-26



Memory verse: Colossians 4:5

## Ephesus

- It was an illustrious city and capital of the Roman province of western Asia Minor (near the modern town of Selçuk in present day Turkey).
- It was distinguished for its great temple of Diana or Artemis. It was the political and religious center of the province of Asia Minor involved in idolatry.
- The theater of the Temple of Diana was the largest in the world capable holding over 30,000 spectators.
- The temple of Artemis was ranked as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.
- It was notorious for its magical arts with their books valued at 50,000 pieces of silver which was freely brought and burned when many believed and confessed the Lord Jesus. (Acts 19:19).
- It was a place for the manufacture of portable silver shrines for the worship of Diana (Acts 19:23-27)
- The Ephesians believed that the goddess Diana fell from heaven. (Acts 19:35)
- Paul's third missionary journey took him to Ephesus where he spent almost 3 years teaching the people in the Jewish synagogue and the school of Tyrannus. (Acts 19:8-10; 20:31)
- God worked many unusual miracles by the hand of Paul and the word of God grew mightily and prevailed in Ephesus. (Acts 19:11-20)
- One of the seven churches addressed in the Apocalypse (Rev. 1:11; 2:1)

## Walking Circumspectly (v. 15-16)

Circumspectly: exactly, accurately, diligently or precisely with great care.  
Careful not to take risks: cautious and vigilant (Cambridge)

Walk: your daily way, pattern or conduct of living (Prov. 4:23-27; Psalm 1:1-2; Matt 7:13-14; Col 1: 9-11)

## Believers (Wise):

- ☞ Walk righteously soberly and godly (Titus 2:11-12; Matt 5:6; Heb 12:14)
- ☞ Walk in humility (Eph 4:1-3)
- ☞ Walk in unity (Eph 4:1-16)
- ☞ Walk differently from the world (Eph 4:17-32; 1 Pet. 4:1-4; Titus 3:3)
- ☞ Walk in love (Eph 5:1-7)
- ☞ Walk in the light (Eph 5:8-14)
- ☞ Walk in wisdom (Eph 5:15-17; Col. 4:5).
- ☞ Walk in the spirit (Gal 5:16-18; Rom 6:12)
- ☞ Walk on the narrow path (Matt 7:13-14)
- ☞ Walk in accordance to God's word (Psalm 119: 105; Matt 7:24-27; 2 Tim 3:15; Luke 11:27-28)

## Biblically, the fool:

- Says no God. Lives by his/her own opinion. Is his/her own god. (Psalm 14:1; 53:1)
- Despises wisdom and instruction and takes no pleasure in understanding (Prov. 1:5-7, 22; 12:15 18:2; Matt. 7:24-27)
- Cannot understand the truth (1 Corinthians 2:14)
- Does not know the state of his condition (Rom. 1:21-22)
- Speaks folly and plans evil (Isa 32:6; Prov. 10:23; 12:23)
- Repeats their folly (Prov. 26:11)
- Mocks at sin (Prov. 14:8-9)
- Spurns a parent's discipline and brings grief to them (Prov. 15:5; 17:25; 19:13)
- Commits sexual immorality (Prov. 6:32; 7:6-27)
- Quick tempered (Eccl. 7:9; Prov. 12:16; 29:11)
- Trusts in himself (Prov. 28:26; Luke 12:20-21)
- Speaks without thinking. Their mouth get them into trouble (Prov. 10:18-19; 18:6-7, 13; 29:20) ***"Wise men speak because they have something to say; Fools because they have to say something."*** Plato
- Easily identified (Eccl. 10:1-3)
- Dies and is destroyed (Prov. 1:32-33; 10:21; Matt. 7:24-27)

Warning: Do not keep company with fools (Prov. 13:20; 1 Cor. 15:33)  
Avoid behaving like fools (Luke 24:25; Gal. 3:1-3)

## Redeeming the time:

- Making the most of your time and opportunity you have in this evil world
- Be busy about doing the work of God (John 4:34-35)
- Beware life is short. (Psalm 39:4-5; 89:46-47; 144:4; Prov. 27:1 James 4:13-16)
- Ask God for wisdom on how to live in this evil world (Psalm 39:4-5; 90:12; Eccl. 7:2)

## The Will of God (v. 17)

God wants to fill us with knowledge which is in His Son (Col 2:3; 1 Cor. 1:30)  
The believer must gain knowledge and know the will of God (Hosea 4:6; John 7:17)

The true knowledge of the will of God guides us on how to live.

### God's will is that:

- We trust in Christ (John 6:29, 40)
- We are saved (Matt. 1:21; Luke 19:10; Gal. 1:3-5)
- We are obedient and dwell with him forever ( 1 John 2:15-17)
- We are Spirit-filled. Living godly lives (Eph. 5:17-20; 1 Pet 4:1-4)
- We are sanctified (1 Thess. 4:3-5)
- We submit to authority unless what we are commanded is contrary to His word(1 Peter 2:13-15; Acts 4:18-20)
- We suffer for Christ's sake (Acts 14:22; 2 Cor. 4:17-18; 1 Pet 3:17; 4:12-15,19; 2 Tim 3:12; Philipp 1:29)
- We are thankful in everything (1 Thess. 5:18)
- We do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with Him (Micah 6:8)

## Be filled With the Spirit (vv. 18-21)

**Do not be drunk by wine:** Anyone under the influence of alcohol is controlled by it and so is the one that is led by the Spirit.

**Filled** (present, passive, imperative): **πληρώω** (Pleroo) to fill up or make full (e.g. wind filling a sail and hand filling a glove). Being led and controlled by the Holy Spirit. Surrendering your all under the control of the Spirit (Matt. 4:1; Luke 1:13-17; 4:1). Letting the word of Christ dwell richly in you (Col. 3:16)

## Warning against Drunkenness

- I. Disturbs the reasoning of man and impairs judgment (Prov. 31:4-5)
- II. Distorts vision, hearing and coordination
- III. Produces bad breath and hangovers
- IV. Dishonours the law of God (Rom. 13:13-14)

- V. In the long term endangers the health of the body. Leads to various diseases.
- VI. Enslaves the soul (Hos. 4:11)
- VII. It is foolishness. Gives false hope and security. (Prov. 20:1; 23:29-35; 31:6-7)
- VIII. Wastes money and leads to beggary (Prov. 23:21)
- IX. Disqualifies one from religious duties (Lev. 10:9; Ezek. 44:21; Luke 1:15-17; 1 Tim 3:1-3; Tit 1:5-7)
- X. Keeps people out of the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal 5:19-21)

## Being filled and led by the Spirit leads to:

- Speaking to others in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs
- Praising God with understanding. When we sing the Psalms, hymns, spiritual songs unto God it must come from the heart.
- Being thankful always to God for all things for what He has done through His son Jesus Christ (**grace, mercy, love, peace, happiness, good health, disappointments, unanswered prayers, persecution, gift of sight, speech, hearing etc**) (Psalm 100:4-5; 1 Thess. 5:18; Philipp 4:6; Eph. 5:20; Heb. 13:15)
- Produce a humble and loving spirit among believers. There is a mutual, unequivocal submission towards each other in the body. (1 Peter 5:5; Philipp 2:3)
- Wives submitting to their husbands and husbands their wives (Eph. 5:24-25)
- Being chosen to do the work of God (Acts 6:1-5; 9:15-18; 11:19-25; 13:4-10)

## What Must We Do

- 1) Let our light shine to the world (Matt. 5:14-16)
- 2) Walk wisely (Col. 4:5; Eph 5:15-17)
- 3) Redeem the time while we have today as life is short (Psalm 90:12)
- 4) Know the will of God
- 5) Be filled and led by the Spirit (Acts 6:3; Eph. 5:18)
- 6) Let the word of God dwell richly in us (Col. 3:16)
- 7) Be thankful in all things (Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thess. 5:18)
- 8) Submit to one another (1 Pet. 5:5; Philipp 2:3)
- 9) Put on the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 13:13-14)