

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
James M. Duncan, Pastor

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“LOOKING UP AND LIVING A LIFE OF WISDOM”

EPHESIANS 5:15-21

Our theme for 2020 is Look Up - Our Dynamic Help from Psalm 121:1-2. Now this morning we are talking about **Looking Up and Living a Life of Wisdom** from *Ephesians 5:15-21*.

Wisdom and intelligence have been confused in our modern world, but they are distinct concepts in Scripture. Wisdom is a matter of living life with skill - navigating and negotiating pitfalls so as to remain out of moral and spiritual danger. Spiritual wisdom comes from knowing and walking with God.

Ephesians 5:1 says we are to live our lives in imitation of God, and *verse 15* says that we can do that by walking in wisdom. In this message, we will study four aspects of what it means to walk in wisdom. The word “followers” in *Ephesians 5:1* is the word *mimics*, The NKJV says it this way; “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.” This sets the theme for the section.

I. THE WISE WALK IS A DILIGENT WALK (5:15)

The word “circumspectly”- note the roots of “circumference” (circle) and “spectacles” (to look) in the word - means to “walk while looking around.” That is, walk observantly, carefully, wisely, like walking through a minefield, taking every step with care or walking on ice. There are three reasons for walking circumspectly through life.

Walking Diligently Keeps Us from Defection
Walking Diligently Keeps Us from Disobedience
Walking Diligently Keeps Us from Destruction

II. THE WALK IN WISDOM IS A DISCIPLINED WALK (5:16)

Verse 16 is paralleled in *Colossians 4:5*: “Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.” Our life has a beginning and an end - each day is a gift from God to be treated reverently. The Bible gives us a number of metaphors to illustrate the relative brevity of our lives.

III. THE WALK IN WISDOM IS A DIRECTED WALK (5:17)

Given that we have a limited amount of time in which to walk in this world, and given that we want our walk to be wise, it behooves us to stay focused: “*Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*” The simplest place to begin to discover God’s will is in *Psalm 37:4*: “*Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.*”

IV. THE WALK IN WISDOM IS A DYNAMIC WALK (5:18-21)

Most Christians are familiar with the famous *verse 18*: “*but be filled with the Spirit.*” But I don’t think most have made the connection between walking in wisdom and being filled with the Spirit. If we believe walking through this world in consistent wisdom is too great a challenge - that the possibility of failure is high - we’re right! We cannot do this in our own strength. Thus, the connection between walking in wisdom and being filled with the Holy Spirit. The only way to be wise and to know the will of God (to delight ourselves in Him) is by the power of the indwelling Spirit of God.

Filled doesn’t mean to be filled like filling a glass with water. It means to be controlled by or under the influence of. (Contrast this with being controlled or under the influence of alcohol - *verse 18a*.) In greater detail, here are three aspects of walking in wisdom by living in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Desire to Be Filled with the Spirit (John 7:37-39)

Denounce Sin in Your Life (1 John 1:9)

Dedicate Yourself Fully to Christ (Romans 12:1-2)