MESSAGE OUTLINE



Step Into the Light

SCRIPTURE - Ephesians 5:8b-21

8b Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. 14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." 15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

INTRODUCTION

If I told a chicken to walk like a chicken, would it be confused not knowing how to walk like a chicken?

Paul has been teaching the Ephesians how to walk the Christian walk.

4:1 *I... beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called...*

5:8 *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.*

So today we will look at how we are to walk worthy as children of light.

vv.8b-14

We are to find out what is acceptable to the Lord. Meaning, whatever we do, should be what God wants.

But most people have no idea what even they themselves want, let alone what God wants.

Whatever falls outside of being good, right, and true is not acceptable to the Lord.

Jesus Christ is *the* way, *the* truth, and *the* life. **He knows exactly what he wants.**

The question is, do you know what He wants?

v.11 ***And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.***

What Paul means is to shine that light you have on them by using your Spiritual senses, through the power and conviction of the Holy Spirit within you, to avoid fellowshipping with the darkness.

12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

And Paul is saying you don't need to experience it, or even describe details about it. Rather if it radiates goodness, righteousness, and truth under examination of the light you possess, then we will know.

Only the believer possesses such light. Only those who have the Holy Spirit within them have this ability.

John 3:19 *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

The true light comes from Jesus Christ. He is the bearer and the giver of light. The Word of God says of Him:

John 1:9&12 *That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.*

You who still don't know what you want, and to those who don't know what God wants, in **v.14** He says: ***"Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."***

Because those who are lost, God is calling you to wake up! An invitation to stop stumbling around in the dark!

Do you want His light to shine on you today? Then pick up your mat, and walk!

Three Pairs for avoiding evil

vv.15-16	Do not be unwise	Walk circumspectly / redeeming the time
v.17	Do not be unwise (foolish)	Understand what the will of God is
v.18	Do not get drunk with wine	Be filled with the spirit

vv.15-16

Paul is reminding us of the Spiritual warfare time that we are in, and tells us life is to be walked circumspectly. *Circum-* means all around and *-spectly* means with our eyes. **Walking while looking all around.**

Evil is everywhere. Every step is shrouded with darkness. The wisdom of God gives light to your path. **Psalm 119:105**, *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

The devil is actively setting traps to make you his pawn, for his evil will. (2 Tim 2:26)

1 Peter 4:3 *For you have spent enough time in the past carrying out the same desires as the Gentiles: living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing, and detestable idolatry.*

SPIRITUAL WARFARE is not a single battle, but it is a daily battle you are in.

You either choose to walk by the path lit by the Lord, or let the darkness trip you up, fall, and consume you.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **Mat 5:16**

How will you go down in history? How are you redeeming the time?

How do we know how to exchange things? **You need wisdom.**

The Path to Wisdom:

1. Put-off worldly wisdom. 1 Corinthians 3:18
2. Put-on new and Godly wisdom: James 1:5
3. Understand things for what they are (Good vs. Evil): Romans 16:19
4. Let it shine and show who you are: Colossians 4:5

v.17

Romans 16:19c - *...I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.*
In other words, we do not need to become acquainted with evil to know what it is.

If you really want to know something intimately... you need to serve it to others.

The question is do you love others like the master does? Letting His teaching work through you?

Ephesians 1:7-9 *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will...*

We have the knowledge. The question is, are we going to use them and make something to give of ourselves?

Many of you have a strong desire to know what God wants you to do. You want to be a dedicated Christian, and you want to walk the Christian life, but you don't know how. You don't know how to walk!

But a chicken does.

Jesus says, **pick up your mat and walk!** That's all you need to do and let Him lead you there.

The opportunities to redeem the time will come to you.

1 John 3:16 *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.*

Now just walk it. He will provide the opportunities.

A Christian, places their faith in Jesus Christ for their salvation believing He alone can save them. God has given His Son, Jesus Christ, as a sacrifice to redeem and seal you as His, and to be with Him forever.

vv.18-21

Being filled is a passive command. Meaning it is being done for or to you.

To be filled with the HS:

- **Speaking** to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
- **Singing** and **making melody** to the Lord
- **Giving thanks** always for everything
- **Submitting** to one another

All of these words are present continuous participles in the Greek. Simply meaning they are verbs that end with *-ing.* Being filled with the Spirit means that these are actively happening.

This is what a church is. They allow themselves to be filled with the Spirit and act it out.

You can't be acting these out at home. Worship is not complete until you hit the last step: submitting to one another.

Do you fear the Lord? The King of Kings and the Lord of Lords? Do you really fear Him?

Let me tell you if you did, you would experience great power to rejoice over in your life.

We should not fear anything, but the Lord.

When we are filled with His Spirit - this is when we are doing what the Lord wants.

Our prayer: Holy Spirit fill us so we can overflow! Being filled with the Spirit is the Christian walk.

1 Peter 2:9 - *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

Walk worthy of your calling.

INVITATION

Jesus said, *"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."* **John 8:12**

He also said, *"While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."* **John 12:36**

If you want to come out of the darkness, follow Jesus, He is the way. Put your faith in Him, and he will lead you out of darkness and into the light.

You will be a child of God, not by anything you do, but what He does for you through faith.

That's His promise. Step into the Light.

Jesse Mark Cesario
August 29-30, 2026
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