



Sunday, March 11, 2018

Pastor Don Denyes

Introduction to Ephesians 5:15-18

These are certainly interesting times in which we live. Recent technological advances have meant that life today is, in very practical ways, unlike life has ever been before on the earth. A person can travel half-way around the world in less than a day. If you don't have the money to do that, perhaps you can just use FaceTime and still speak face-to-face with someone who lives half way around the world. We have sent animals, people, and now cars into space. These are truly fascinating times in which we live.

And yet, in some ways, life has not changed at all. Like Paul, who lived in the first century AD, we live in evil days. With all of the technological changes, we still have not been able to solve the problem of sin in the human heart. We still have not been able to fixate accurately on the will of God. And we are still hopeless apart from the Holy Spirit filling us and quickening our hearts to see the beauty of Christ and to obey His commands. It is into this world that Paul speaks, and because ours is so similar, continues to speak even today.

Context

Still in the middle of the "sit-walk-stand" structure of Ephesians, this section of Ephesians 5 somewhat concludes Paul's argument on the generalities of following Jesus and "walking" in love, in light, and in wisdom. Paul concludes this section by talking about the need to be filled with the Spirit. This will become the dominant thought for the remaining material in chapter 5 on into chapter 6. Paul is very much concerned for this church, that they not allow the surrounding circumstances in which this church finds itself to set the tone and pace for the life of the church. The church is supposed to be totally devoted to Christ, understanding the times, comprehending God's will, and being controlled by the Spirit.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Walk Wisely”

Read Ephesians 5:15-18

Ephesians 5

- Walk in love 5.2

- Walk in light 5.8

- Walk in wisdom 5.15

A wise person (is)...

- Concerned with time

- Comprehends the will of God

- Controlled by the Spirit

Discuss

- 1) How would you describe the “times” we live in today? And to what extent would you say you are a “product of the times”?

- 2) Would you say that you know God’s will for your life? If so, how?

- 3) What gives us the most trouble when it comes to discerning or comprehending God’s will for our lives?

- 4) What evidence have you seen in your life of being filled with the Spirit?

- 5) Of these three issues (being concerned with the times in which we live, comprehending the will of God, and being controlled by the Spirit), which is the greatest strength for you? And which is the greatest weakness?