

“Being Wise in Evil Days” - Ephesians 5:15-17 – June 24th, 2018

- The titled of today’s teaching is “Being Wise in Evil Days.”
- The reason I’m taking just three verses today is because the Apostle Paul addresses a very important issue related to us today.
- Namely, both why and how it is that we’re to live in a world that’s seemingly waxing more and more evil with each passing day.

- I would like to begin by pointing out three very interesting observations from our text that will be germane to our understanding.
- The first one has to do with the word, “circumspectly,” which comes from two Latin words meaning look around or be aware of.
- More specifically, looking in a “circular” direction, if you will, so as to be aware of everything that’s happening in all directions.

- If you really think about it, this makes perfect sense, such that, it’s very practical if I want to walk and not get blindsided or fall.
- In other words, if I’m walking, looking only in front of me, or only at what’s behind me, it’s just a matter of time before I stumble.
- Simply put, if we’re to be wise in how we live, we must be circumspect with respect to the world around us, lest we fail and fall.

- The second observation has to do with the reason the Apostle Paul gives, as to why it is that we are to live in this manner.
- Notice in verse sixteen where he says it’s because the days are evil. Certainly this was true then, and it’s even more so now.
- It’s important to understand that Paul is contrasting the one who lives wisely, as opposed to the one who lives very foolishly.

- It’s verse 17 that we would do well to pay particular attention to, as Paul explains how to understand what the Lord’s will is.
- What is the Lord’s will? It’s His will that we live and walk wise in these evil days, lest we suffer needlessly in this evil world.
- This speaks to a truth that we’ve been talking about as of late, as it relates to God warning us because He loves us so much.

- The third observation is concerning how to walk wisely. Paul says first and foremost to redeem the time, while there’s still time.
- Redeemed is a very interesting word because it carries with it the idea of buying back that, which is perceived as having value.
- The question becomes one of what is so valuable that we’re to redeem? I would suggest that it’s our time and our opportunity.

- I’ll take it a step further and suggest that the reason time is so valuable is that of the age-old principal of “supply and demand.”
- The reason being is that an increased demand will bring about a depletion of supply, which in turn propels an increase of value.
- As such, the reason time is so valuable is that the supply is disproportionate to the demand, in that we’re just about out of time.

Matthew 24:45-51 - "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? (46) It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. (47) I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. (48) But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' (49) and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. (50) The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. (51) He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- What I absolutely love about this parable that Jesus taught is that He paints a picture contrasting the wise and foolish servants.
- It’s interesting to note that the wise servant redeemed the time, whereas the foolish servant said to himself I have a long time.
- It’s for this reason that the foolish and wicked servant devalued time, in that, he thinks to himself that he still has plenty of time.

- The difference between these two servants is the wise one lived with urgency, whereas the foolish had no hurry and no worry.
- The reason the wise servant lived with urgency giving the servants their food at the proper time is that there wasn’t much time.
- This is exactly what the Apostle Paul is saying in our text; be wise and make the most of every opportunity while there’s time.

- Here’s the bottom line in closing, like this wise servant, I’ll be wise proportionate to how I live with urgency redeeming the time.
- Its when I will circumspectly look at the world around me, I’ll see just how evil the day is, and redeem the time as short as it is.
- Would to God every one of us would be numbered amongst those of whom it can be said, “they live wisely and circumspectly.”

Proverbs 13:20 - Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.