

Making The Best Use of Our Time

Ephesians 5:15-21

Queen Elizabeth I – (1558-1603)

“All my possessions for a moment of time.”



TIME – April 1989

Cover Story: ***“How America Has Run Out Of Time”***

Making The Best Use of Our Time

Paul's Warning:

Be very careful how you are using your time.

Psalm 90:12 [ESV] - So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. (Moses)

Ephesians 5:15-21 -Two parts:

1. A Warning: Be Careful How You Live
2. A Command: Be Filled with the Spirit

1. A Warning: Be Careful How You Live

Ephesians 5:15-16 [ESV] - Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

1. A Warning: Be Careful How You Live

Ephesians 4:1 [ESV] - I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

Ephesians 5:16 [ESV] – ...making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

1. A Warning: Be Careful How You Live

***a. Not as unwise but as wise people
(v.15b)***

***1 Corinthians 3:19 [NIV] - For the wisdom
of this world is foolishness in God's
sight.***

1. A Warning: Be Careful How You Live

***a. Not as unwise but as wise people
(v.15b)***

Ephesians 1:17 [NIV] - I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

1. A Warning: Be Careful How You Live

***a. Not as unwise but as wise people
(v.15b)***

James 1:5 [NIV] - If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

1. A Warning: Be Careful How You Live

***b. Not foolishly but with understanding
(v.17)***

***Ephesians 5:17 [ESV] – Therefore do not
be foolish, but understand what the will
of the Lord is.***

1. A Warning: Be Careful How You Live

***b. Not foolishly but with understanding
(v.17)***

***1 Thessalonians 4:3 [ESV] - For this is
the will of God, your sanctification***

1. A Warning: Be Careful How You Live

***b. Not foolishly but with understanding
(v.17)***

1 Timothy 2:3–4 [ESV] - ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1. A Warning: Be Careful How You Live

***b. Not foolishly but with understanding
(v.17)***

***Micah 6:8 [ESV] - He has told you, O man,
what is good; and what does the Lord
require of you but to do justice, and to
love kindness, and to walk humbly with
your God?***

1. A Warning: Be Careful How You Live

***b. Not foolishly but with understanding
(v.17)***

***1 Thessalonians 5:18 [ESV] - ...give
thanks in all circumstances; for this is
the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.***

1. A Warning: Be Careful How You Live

c. Not to be taken to drunkenness but be filled with the Spirit of God (v.18)

Ephesians 5:18 [ESV] - And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.

2. A Command: Be Filled With the Spirit

“The intent [of this command] is that the person should be characterized by wisdom and live in tune with God’s Spirit...the Holy Spirit is the controlling influence motivating and directing the lives of believers”

(Snodgrass, Ephesians - NIV Application Commentary)

2. A Command: Be Filled With the Spirit

a. We Have Spirit Filled Communication

Ephesians 5:19 [NIV] - Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.”

2. A Command: Be Filled With the Spirit

a. We Have Spirit Filled Communication

Psalm 100:1–2 [NIV] Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

2. A Command: Be Filled With the Spirit

b. We Have Spirit Filled Thanksgiving

Ephesians 5:20 [ESV] – “...giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2. A Command: Be Filled With the Spirit

b. We Have Spirit Filled Thanksgiving

Colossians 3:17 [NIV] - And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

2. A Command: Be Filled With the Spirit

b. We Have Spirit Filled Thanksgiving

Romans 1:21 [NIV] - For although [the wicked] knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

2. A Command: Be Filled With the Spirit

c. We Have Spirit Filled Submission

Ephesians 5:21 [ESV] - Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

2. A Command: Be Filled With the Spirit

c. We Have Spirit Filled Submission

Philippians 2:1-3 - If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion...

2. A Command: Be Filled With the Spirit

c. We Have Spirit Filled Submission

Philippians 2:1-3 - ... then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

2. A Command: Be Filled With the Spirit

c. We Have Spirit Filled Submission

John 10:17–18 [NIV] - The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life -only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

Making The Best Use of Our Time

1. A Warning: Be Careful How You Live
2. A Command: Be Filled With the Spirit

Ephesians 5:15-16 [ESV] - Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.