



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Guiding Lights In The Darkness

Bible Reading: Eph. 5:15-18

[Watch LIVESTREAM here at 10am](#)

[Join our post-sermon discussion on Zoom at 11am](#)

[Join our citKids Connect discussion at 11am](#)

I. Seeing the immediate and overall context: the days are evil (Eph. 5:15-16)

- A. The overlap of ages
- B. The influence of the evil cosmic powers/forces (Eph. 1:20-21; 2:1-2; 3:10; 4:14; 6:11-13, 16; 5:16)
- C. Pay careful attention, then, to how you live [walk]

II. Three Contrasting Pairs (Eph. 5:15-18)

- A. Not..., but...
 - 1. Not unwise, but wise
 - 2. Not foolish, but understanding the Lord's will
 - 3. Not drunk with wine, but being filled by the Spirit
- B. One overarching principle & two practical ways – Walk wisely (principle) = Understanding Lord's will + being filled by the Spirit
- C. The guiding behaviors in the darkness: wisdom, discernment & being filled by the Spirit

III. Wisdom (Eph. 5:15-16)

- A. Wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord (Prov. 1:7; 9:10)
- B. Not as unwise
- C. Making the most of your time/redeeming the time

IV. Understanding the Lord's Will (Eph. 5:17)

- A. So, don't be foolish
- B. Reading scripture (Eph. 3:3-4; Col. 3:16 – sister verse to Eph. 5:18-19)
- C. Be renewed in your mind (Rom. 12:2)
- D. Giving thanks (1 Thes. 5:18)
- E. Sexual purity (1 Thes. 4:3)
- F. Equipping others (Eph. 4:12)

V. Being Filled By the Spirit (Eph. 5:18)

- A. And, don't be drunk with wine
- B. Present – “be being filled”
- C. “By the Holy Spirit” not the human spirit
- D. Passive – allow yourself to be filled
- E. Indicative – a command, not an option
- F. Not a comparison but a contrast
- G. Not an ecstatic or sensational experience in Ephesians
- H. Bezalel (Exo. 31:1-4)