

**July 15, 2023**

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

**Eph. 5:15-17** *Be very careful, then, how you live-not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the LORD's will is. (NIV)*

Paul is exhorting us to be very careful 'how' we live. If you are breathing, if your heart is beating, you are physically alive. That is not this issue here. The issue is 'how' you live, not 'if' you live. Paul says we are to 'be very careful.' The Greek word for *careful* is **blepete** which means *to be observant, study or perceive*. In other words, we are to study the path ahead of us. We are to be 'in tune' with God's plan in the process of our walk. Now think about this fact. Most of us don't think a bit about 'how' we physically walk. We learned this when we were very young and we've been doing it ever since. We just do it. But Paul is saying that in our 'spiritual walk,' we should be very careful. We should be very much in tune with the Spirit of the LORD.

The unwise person walks without a thought of what they are doing or where they are going. They are influenced only by their surroundings and motivated by what the world around them says is important. Conversely, the wise person is looking for and seizing every opportunity that the LORD lays before them. Why? Because the days are evil. Do you not see this? Do you not recognize that the evil one is influencing so much of the things around us? Let's not be foolish as though we don't have a clue. We do! We know that wisdom is found in the LORD only. If we walk 'in Him,' we will be able to see things from His perspective. What the physical world sees is not to sway us, but what the LORD knows is to determine our steps.

**Dear Father, open our spiritual eyes so that we can see. Help us to be wise and not unwise. There is too much at stake. Help us to take every opportunity that You give us, to walk according to the Spirit. In Jesus Name, Amen**