



# Light from the Word

## Walking with Wisdom/Circumspectly

*“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”<sup>1</sup>*

Paul’s encouragement to the early Church in their daily walk is as timely for us today as it was for the believers in Ephesus. We will focus on two areas; a wise vs. foolish walk and being considerate vs. inconsiderate of others. And as Paul reminds us, our daily walk begins today, not tomorrow or the next day.

Let us start with some definitions of knowledge vs. wisdom. Knowledge is data or information; something that is learned over time. It is something that we can memorize, but yet not know how to use it appropriately. Wisdom acts upon the knowledge in a proper way. For example, knowledge understands that the light has turned red; wisdom is expressed by stopping our car. Knowledge memorizes our favorite verse; wisdom allows it to be manifested in our lives, bringing forth spiritual fruit. Knowledge helps us learn of God; wisdom constrains us to love Him more and more.

How do we know who is a wise man and endowed with knowledge? James writes, *“let him show out of a good conversation, his works with meekness of wisdom.”<sup>2</sup>* We know that our world is not full of meekness, but rather often focuses on self, fulfilling our own wants and desires. Why would that happen? It can happen if we allow the actions of our lives to be governed by earthly wisdom, which is sensual and devilish.<sup>3</sup> It would happen if we were striving for earthly gain—for example: the best job, the biggest house, or the most earthly possessions. Our vision would be on earthly things, a carnal battle for these pleasures for a season, leading to covetousness and envy in our hearts. The scripture teaches us, *“for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”<sup>4</sup>* This kind of earthly wisdom will ultimately lead us to destruction.

How do we first gain this godly wisdom and then have it manifested in our lives? Throughout scripture we are reminded of those who in faith inclined their ear to God, realizing their need. God liberally grants wisdom to those who seek Him.<sup>5</sup> We grow in wisdom when we realize that we can do nothing of ourselves,<sup>6</sup> but rather ask Him for direction through reading the Bible or through prayer. As we read and meditate, God’s Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our paths.<sup>7</sup> It is amazing how many times the scripture provides us the answers or teaching that we are in need of in our daily walk of life. We are also blessed by our fellow brothers and sisters, blessed by God with wisdom, who can also be a help to us—if we are willing and humble enough to ask. We have the promise that when we lean not to our own understanding, but trust Him in all of our ways, He will direct our paths on the more excellent way, which will lead us to Heaven.<sup>8</sup>

With godly wisdom guiding our lives, the things of the world grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.<sup>9</sup> And while we are in the world, we are aware that we are living in a society in which moral values are continually being degraded. We must not become desensitized by a culture which no longer calls sin, sin. When we are walking in wisdom, we need to be aware that just because words change, it does not change the Word of God. It was once said that what we used to call an itch, we now call an allergy, but we scratch just the same. The same concept is true that no matter what words are used; the consequences of sin do not change. As wise children of God, we are called to *“put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”<sup>10</sup>*

And just as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister,<sup>11</sup> God’s wisdom not only makes us wise unto salvation, but also

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## Walking Carefully and in Holiness - Part 2

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compels us to fulfill the Great Commission.<sup>12</sup> Our reasonable service is to use each day God gives us to help those that are without<sup>13</sup> and to learn more about Christ living within us.<sup>14</sup> God's wisdom directs the appropriate response, "*and of some have compassion, making a difference: and others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.*"<sup>15</sup> His wisdom causes us to always be about His business; being easy to be entreated, full of mercy, without partiality to all that God places in our paths.<sup>16</sup>

This wisdom also ensures that we don't allow this liberty of walking in Christ to become a stumbling block to those that are weak.<sup>17</sup> We have a Christ-like love in our heart, reflected in such a way to our neighbor that we "*follow after the things which make for peace,*

*and things wherewith one may edify another.*"<sup>18</sup> In contrast to the world, where the focus is so often on self, God's wisdom causes us to consider and esteem each of His creation of such value that we would desire to provoke one another to a greater love and good works.<sup>19</sup>

In a world where knowledge is ever increasing, leading to the puffing up of man's hearts and minds, may we ever look to the school of the Cross for our teaching, allowing us to be the salt of the earth. May we be wise enough to realize that this world is not our home—that we are just passing through. We are His ambassadors—our lives are to be lived for His service and we are to be doing His business. May we be grounded enough in His Word and directed by His Spirit to prove all things, holding fast to that which is good, that we would not get caught up in the deceitfulness of the evil adversary. May we be wise enough to have a Christ-like love for one another, being a help and support, not a

stumbling block, that by our lives more can come to know Him and His perfect will. And may we understand that each day is a gift from God, having hearts and minds willing to go, willing to stay, wise enough to know His will is best.

(Footnotes)

<sup>1</sup> Eph. 5:15-16

<sup>2</sup> James 3:13

<sup>3</sup> James 3:14

<sup>4</sup> Matt. 6:21

<sup>5</sup> James 1:5

<sup>6</sup> 2 Cor. 3:5

<sup>7</sup> Psalm 119:105

<sup>8</sup> Prov. 3:4-5

<sup>9</sup> "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus," by Helen H. Lemmel, 1922.

<sup>10</sup> Rom. 13:14

<sup>11</sup> Mark 10:45

<sup>12</sup> Matt. 28:19-20

<sup>13</sup> Col. 4:5

<sup>14</sup> Col. 3:3

<sup>15</sup> Jude 22-23

<sup>16</sup> James 3:17

<sup>17</sup> 1 Cor. 8:9

<sup>18</sup> Rom. 14: 19

<sup>19</sup> Heb. 10:24

*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with **thanksgiving** let your requests be made known unto God.*

Philippians 4:6