

"GODLY WISDOM"

Part 2

OBJECTIVE: TO STUDY THE WORD OF GOD CONCERNING THE IMPORTANCE OF WALKING IN GODLY WISDOM. WE WILL UNCOVER HOW GOD ALLOWS US TO EXPERIENCE GODLY WISDOM THROUGH SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT.

KEY SCRIPTURES: PSALMS 32:8/ PROVERBS 2:6/JAMES 1:5
PROVERBS 1:7/ 1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-8/ 1 KINGS 3:16-28

1. A DILIGENT WALK IN WISDOM (EPHESIANS 5:15) "SEE THEN THAT YOU WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY, NOT AS FOOLS BUT AS WISE," (EPHESIANS 5:15 NKJV). TWO KEY WORDS:

A) SEE. THIS WORD MEANS TO OBSERVE, TO LOOK CLOSELY, AND TO STUDY SOMETHING CAREFULLY.

B) CIRCUMSPECTLY. THE WORD MEANS TO BE ACCURATE, AND PRECISE. WHAT PAUL IS SAYING IS THAT, AS CHRISTIANS, WE ARE TO WALK CORRECTLY AND PRECISELY AS WE GO THROUGH LIFE BECAUSE WE HAVE AN ENEMY THAT WANTS US TO FAIL AND TO FALL.

"STAY ALERT! WATCH OUT FOR YOUR GREAT ENEMY, THE DEVIL. HE PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION, LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO DEVOUR." (1 PETER 5:8 NLT).

KNOWING HOW SKILFULLY EVIL THE DEVIL IS, PAUL WARNS US TO WATCH EVERY STEP THAT WE TAKE. "DON'T LIVE LIKE FOOLS, BUT LIKE THOSE WHO ARE WISE."

(EPHESIANS 5:15B NLT). WE ARE NOT TO WALK OR ACT LIKE THE WORLD AROUND US BEHAVES; IT IS NOT A ROLE MODEL TO FOLLOW. INSTEAD, WE SHOULD FOLLOW JESUS' EXAMPLE. AS CHRISTIANS, WE HAVE THE LIGHT AND LIFE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WITHIN US. SO, WE WALK CAREFULLY ALONG THE PATH OF OUR LIVES IN A DIRECTION THAT LEADS US TO A CLOSER WALK AND A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS. "DO NOT BE WISE IN YOUR OWN EYES; FEAR THE LORD [WITH REVERENT AWE AND OBEDIENCE] AND TURN [ENTIRELY] AWAY FROM EVIL."
(PROVERBS 3:7 AMP).

2. A DISCERNING WALK IN WISDOM (EPHESIANS 5:16)
"REDEEMING THE TIME, BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL."
(EPHESIANS 5:16 NKJV). TWO KEY WORDS:

A) REDEEM. THIS WORD MEANS TO BUY UP AND TO DELIVER. IN BIBLE TIMES, THIS WORD WAS USED WHEN A SLAVE WAS BOUGHT AND THEN SET FREE.

B) TIME. THIS WORD REFERS TO AN ALLOCATION OF TIME; THE SMALL WINDOW OF TIME THAT WE HAVE IN THIS WORLD. AS CHRISTIANS, GOD HAS GIVEN US A SMALL WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE HIM AND BE USED TO SET FREE THE WORLD FROM ITS SLAVERY OF SIN. WE NEED TO MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR JESUS IN OUR LIVES. TO USE OUR TIME WISELY, TAKING TIME TO:

- PRAY TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.*
- WORSHIP JESUS, OUR SAVIOUR. O SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS.*
- READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE.*
- HONOUR JESUS WITH EVERY PART OF OUR LIVES. WE USE OUR ALLOCATED TIME TO WALK HONORABLY AND WISELY WITH JESUS. "WE ARE THEREFORE CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS," (2 CORINTHIANS 5:20A). LET US TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO BE DISCERNING REPRESENTATIVES FOR JESUS IN OUR COMMUNITY.*

3. A DEFINITE WALK IN WISDOM (EPHESIANS 5:17) "DON'T ACT THOUGHTLESSLY, BUT UNDERSTAND WHAT THE LORD WANTS

YOU TO DO.” (EPHESIANS 5:17 NLT). THE WORD TRANSLATED “THOUGHTLESSLY” MEANS TO BE STUPID, IGNORANT, FOOLISH, AND EGOTISTIC. IT IS REFERRING TO SOMEONE WHO THINKS THEY ARE WISE, BUT THEIR WORDS AND THEIR ACTIONS SHOW THAT THEY ARE THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE. WHEN PUT WITH VV.15-16, PAUL IS BLUNTLY SAYING, “DON’T RUN THROUGH THIS LIFE LIKE AN IDIOT!” IF WE ARE NOT CAREFUL, WE CAN ALLOW OURSELVES TO GET SO BUSY DOING THE THINGS THAT WE DO THAT WE DON’T HAVE TIME TO ENJOY A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS. HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND WHAT GOD WANTS US TO DO? GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US THROUGH THE BIBLE – IT IS THE WORD OF GOD. SO, WE FIND THE WILL OF GOD THROUGH WHAT HE SAYS IN THE BIBLE. THE WORD OF GOD REVEALS WHAT HE WANTS US TO DO IN OUR LIVES. BUT THERE IS A CONSEQUENCE TO THIS ANSWER. BECAUSE GOD REVEALS HIS WILL FOR OUR LIVES IN THE BIBLE, WE NEED TO SLOW DOWN LONG ENOUGH TO READ THE BIBLE, TO REFLECT ON WHAT IT SAYS, TO UNDERSTAND HIS WORD, AND PUT IT INTO PRACTICE. SADLY, THERE IS NO SHORT-CUT FOR THIS. WE MUST TAKE TIME AND MAKE THE BIBLE A PRIORITY OR WE MAY STUMBLE AROUND WASTING OUR TIME ON THINGS THAT ARE NOT WHAT GOD WANTS US TO DO. WHEN WE READ THE BIBLE, WE SEE THE MIND OF GOD ON EVERY PAGE. SO, WE NEED TO KNOW THE AUTHOR, AND UNDERSTAND WHAT HE IS SAYING TO US. WAITING IN GOD’S PRESENCE, TEACHES US HOW TO MAKE OUR LIVES COUNT FOR HIS HONOUR. “BUT THOSE WHO WAIT FOR THE LORD [WHO EXPECT, LOOK FOR, AND HOPE IN HIM] WILL GAIN NEW STRENGTH AND RENEW THEIR POWER; THEY WILL LIFT UP THEIR WINGS [AND RISE UP CLOSE TO GOD] LIKE EAGLES [RISING TOWARD THE SUN]; THEY WILL RUN AND NOT BECOME WEARY, THEY WILL WALK AND NOT GROW TIRED.” (ISAIAH 40:31)