**May 20, 2018 “Making the Most of Your Time” Ephesians 5:15-17**

**I Peter 1:17**

Last week as we approached Ephesians 5:15-17, we learned about wisdom. The thing we learned about wisdom is this, “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”. To properly understand what this phrase means we had to look at the opposite as it is declared in Scripture where David writes in Psalm 14:1, “the fool has said in his heart, there is no God”.

That does not mean this person does not know there is a God (Romans 1:18-22)… they just decided to live as if He did not exist. This helps us to understand Ephesians 5:15 with greater insight as we could read Ephesians 5:15 like this; “be careful how you live, not as fools who live like there is no God but live knowing God exists and you will give an account for your life before Him”.

On the heels of Ephesians 5:15 follows Ephesians 5:16… “making the most of your time”.

Years ago, there used to be a soap opera that started out with a picture of an hour glass and then the announcer would say, “as the sand in the hour glass so are the days of our lives”. That is quite a sobering thought if we really think about it. You see we all only have so much time… unfortunately none of us knows how much sand is in our hour glass.

Paul now following his previous statement in Ephesians 5:15, reminds all of us that we are to make the most of our time here on earth. (Psalm 39:4-6)

1. Three things for every Christian to keep in mind
   1. Ephesians 5:15……walk in wisdom
      1. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
         1. Live like you will answer to God to every moment of every day
         2. That means you will not live like the pagans
            1. Ephesians 5:3-7
            2. There are parameters in your life

Not set by you but by the Word of God… in principle

By not every so-called sin…

* 1. Ephesians 5:16… making the most of your time
     1. American Christianity
        1. Have a good job, making decent money
        2. 2.3 children
        3. Health insurance, nice car
        4. Home with 3 or 4 bedrooms and with two bathrooms
        5. Attached garage
        6. Retire at 62 or 65
        7. Travel some… maybe to Pigeon Falls?
        8. Die at a ripe old age
     2. Then why does David write in Psalm 90:12?
        1. Teach us to number our days
        2. So that we may “present to you a heart of wisdom?”
           1. Wisdom always is looking for the opportunities to serve and glorify God
     3. Why should we look for these opportunities?
        1. Because the days are evil in which we live…
           1. Revelation 2:1-7

Church in Ephesus ceased to exist

Lost their first love

What is the first and great commandment?

Love the Lord your God will all you heart, with all your mind, with all your soul and with all your strength

* + 1. Every day we live is a gift from God
       1. Greatest fool on earth is the one who wastes his time saying… tomorrow…
          1. I will start reading my Bible
          2. I will start praying
          3. I will witness to those around me
          4. I am going to quit…

Tomorrow…

* + 1. For everyone there is a time
       1. Noah… door was shut
       2. Belshazzar… you have been weighed in the balance…
       3. Jerusalem… how often would I have gathered you in?
       4. Ten virgins… door was shut when they went to get oil
       5. Churches… I will remove your lampstand
    2. How many of us haven’t known someone who died early?
       1. If you were to ask all of them…
       2. They would have said they all had more time
  1. His purpose… understand His will
     1. He wants you to be saved… He is not willing that any should perish
     2. He wants you and me to be filled with the Spirit… Ephesians 5:18
     3. He wants every one of us to live holy lives… walk worthy
     4. He wants us to know that this life is not going to be easy… you may have to suffer many things
     5. He wants you and me to have eternal life with Him