

OUR WALK IN THE NEW YEAR *Ephesians 5:15-18*

It is more Biblical to think of our lives as a _____ than to think of our lives as pages in a book
Ephesians 5: Vv.1-7—Walk in _____. Vv.8-14—Walk in _____. Vv.15-21—Walk in _____

The physical act of walking is a metaphor that Paul often uses for living everyday life in three ways:

- 1) Walking is a _____
- 2) Walking is composed of discrete _____; in a similar way, our life is composed of _____
- 3) We walk in a _____; in a similar way, all of our lives will end somewhere for all eternity

I. PAY ATTENTION TO EVERY STEP:

“See then that you walk circumspectly” = “Therefore observe _____ carefully you walk”

Paul assumes all Christians are already walking carefully, but we must pay even _____ attention to our walk

A. The _____ of This World

- 1) For the Christian, everyday life is like walking over unfamiliar ground in the pitch _____
- 2) If we don't pay close attention, we will _____ and be badly hurt from a spiritual perspective

B. The _____ of This World

- 1) For the Christian, everyday life is like walking through a spiritual _____ field
- 2) “The days are evil” because _____ is at work in the world system, planting mines in our path

II. REDEEM EVERY OPPORTUNITY

A. “The Time”: the language of the NT has two different words that are translated “time” in English

- 1) *Kronos* speaks of time that keep with a watch, that can be measured in _____
- 2) *Kairos* speaks of a fixed period of time adapted for a purpose—a “season” or _____

B. “Redeem” = “Buy out _____”

C. “Redeem the Time”

- 1) Redeem THE opportunity—buy out our _____ completely by stewarding every moment of our time
- 2) Redeem EACH opportunity—buy out completely every opportunity that we meet in the New Year

a) We must buy out completely every opportunity in 2017 because the days are _____
The wickedness of our day reduces the _____ of opportunities; so we must take full advantage
In the parallel passage in Colossians 4:5, Paul applies this thought to our response to _____

b) We will recognize these opportunities in 2017 by asking, “What is the _____ of the Lord?”
Often when opportunities appear in our paths, we recognize them as _____
This is the lesson that Jesus teaches in the story of the Good _____ who stopped to help

c) We will have wherewithal to redeem opportunities in 2017 only if we are filled with the _____
Both alcohol and the Spirit have the ability to _____ us and overcome our inhibitions
Both alcohol and the Spirit have the ability to _____ us
But alcohol leads to dissipation, which means _____
The Holy Spirit has the opposite effect—souls saved and lives built up rather than _____