

## Ephesians 5:8-21

### Verse 8:

--**For you were once darkness.** . . . Paul reinforces his next exhortation with a reminder about their life outside of Christ. They were not only *in* darkness as their previous environment but they *were* darkness—a very part of it.

--**But now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of the light.** . . . The contrast here is clear. They were *darkness* outside of Christ, but now they are **light in the Lord**. The exhortation is to a simple life acknowledgement. . . *as children of the light ever walk!*

**\*John 8:12: Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."\***

**\*Matthew 5:14: You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.\***

--We are to ever walk in the light and be children of the light because The light of the world lives in us! \*Too many want to be Christians but don't want to be lights that cannot be hidden!\*

\*Muggeridge (Jesus Rediscovered): *"Nowadays when I occasionally find myself in a pulpit—one of those bad habits one gets into in late middle age—and never, by the way, in a more famous pulpit than this one—I always have the same feeling as I look round, as I do now at your faces: a deep, passionate longing to be able to say something memorable, to shed some light.*

*'I am the light of the world,' the founder of the Christian religion said. What a stupendous phrase! And how particularly marvelous today, when one is conscious of so much darkness in the world! Let your light shine before men, he exhorted us. You know, sometimes on foolish television or radio panels, or being interviewed, someone asks me what I most want, what I should most like to do in the little that remains of my life, and I always nowadays truthfully answer—and it is truthful—"I should like my light to shine, even if only very fitfully, like a match struck in a dark, cavernous night and then flickering out."\**

### Verse 9:

--What does walking in the light look like? Paul tells us here. ***The fruit of the Spirit (light) is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth.***

--Just as physical light produces physical fruit, so spiritual light produces spiritual fruit. The fruit of this spiritual light (which only comes by the work of the Holy Spirit) is:

-**Goodness:** Good has a beneficial nature. Good works are works adapted to their proper ends.

\*We speak of good soil, a good tree, a good heart, a good spouse, parent, child, or man.\*

-**Righteousness:** Is "rightness" before God and man.

-**Truth:** Both religious and moral.

--It is so sad when you see believers begin to inch away from these things: church, godly friends, personal prayer or devotion, etc. They are trying to block the entrance of light in their life. The light has no friend within. They have begun to sin against light, so they slink away from as much of it as possible—fearful hypocrites living in the shadows.

--Why? They do not want the fruit of light produced in their life.

### Verse 10:

--This really continues from verse 8. The Greek for ***Finding out*** means to *prove* or *try* or *decide after examination*. We might use the term “verify.”

--***What is acceptable to the Lord.*** . . what is pleasing to Him.

--So those who walk in the light verify by their life what is pleasing to God.

**\*1 Thessalonians 4:1-2: *Finally, then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.\****

### Verses 11-14:

--(11) ***And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works for darkness.*** . . It is important to recognize that ***no fellowship*** does not mean *no interaction*. We must interact with the world. We are not called to fellowship—join in purpose and spirit—with the world. We are called to be in the world but not of it. \*Think of how Jesus interacted but didn’t fellowship.\*

**\*John 17:16: *They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.\****

--In fact, part of our interaction should be what light does with darkness. . . ***but rather expose them.*** That being, expose them as darkness.

--Walking in the light, walking as light in this world, will cause us to avoid mixing with darkness and will, as a byproduct, expose the darkness for what it is and what it hides. \*Why the world hates the message of sin and the cross!\*

**\*John 7:7: *The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.\****

--(12) The darkness of the world conceals many things ***it is shameful even to speak of.*** Though living as light will expose these things—by word or deed.

--(13) Darkness conceals evil but light exposes evil and shows how evil, evil is.

**\*John 3:19-21: *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.\****

--We must walk as children of the light for ourselves and the world! The spiritual light of God is so powerful that it both illuminates all evil and sanctifies all who walk in it.

**\*1 John 1:5-7: *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.\****

--Living in the light is a powerful spiritual principle.

1) Stay in the light and do not live in darkness. Good for any decision in life!

2) When you see that there is darkness in you—expose it, drag its ugly bulk into the light and it will not survive for long. \*To conceal is to protect a piece of darkness.\*

**\*Proverbs 28:13: He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.\***

--(14) **Therefore He says.** . . . is a typical intro to an OT quote as Paul previously used in **4:8**. This is not an ancient hymn but a reference taken from **Isaiah 51:17; 52:1-2; 60:1**.

--Paul is clearly speaking to believers so this is a warning for those who are spiritually asleep to the realities of light and dark. \*Sometimes it is hard to tell the difference between a heavy sleeper and a dead man!\*

--Spiritual sleep is so dangerous because, like physical sleep, it often comes upon us quietly and unnoticed. We are usually unaware of the moment we fall asleep physically. We are also typically unaware of the moment we fall asleep spiritually.

--That is why we must heed the call of the Spirit to wake up when it comes!

**\*1 Thessalonians 5:5-6: You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of the darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.\***

#### **Verses 15-16:**

--**Seen then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise.** The Greek word for **circumspectly** (*akribos*) means *exactly, accurately, or diligently*.

--Paul is saying that as believers, if we look carefully to our walk, walking with the Lord straightly and not deviating to the left or right, it will keep us from living unwise or like the unwise. \*How many Christians think so little of what they do, watch, listen to, or leave undone!\*

--Instead of barely thinking about our days in relation to our spiritual walk, we should be **redeeming the time**—buying up every day as it presents itself.

--The Greek word for time here is *kairos*, which gives us a specific idea of time in quality.

\*Buechner (The Hungering Dark): *“The Greek word chronos means “time” in a quantitative sense, chronological time, time that you can divide into minutes and years, time as duration. It is the sense that we mean when we say, “What time is it?” or “How much time do I have?” or “Time like an ever-flowing stream,” in one of the hymns that we sing. But in Greek there is also the word kairos, which means “time” in a qualitative sense—not the kind that a clock measures but time that cannot be measured at all, time that is characterized by what happens in it. Kairos time is the kind that you mean when you say that “the time is ripe” to do something, “It’s time to tell the truth,” a truth-telling kind of time. Or “I had a good time”—the time had something about it that made me glad. The ancient poet who wrote the Book of Ecclesiastes was using time in a kairos sense when he wrote of a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to keep silence and a time to speak.”\**

--Most people are “spending time,” “wasting time,” or “killing time” while we are called to redeem time by investing time in eternity. We have such a short time to get ready for such a long time, and if we think we will live forever here and forget our time is short, it is easy to fall asleep spiritually. \*Imagine you time has run out!\*

--Why? ***Because the days are evil.*** The general tone and culture of this world, the basic atmosphere of this life, is not that of heaven. It is thick with the evil of sin. So to walk as if that is not true is to foolishly give ourselves over to the gravity of darkness that pulls us out of our circumspection. \*This world is not neutral!\*

***\*Galatians 1:4-5: Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever Amen.\****

--Time is one of the most precious commodities we have because it is passing. Time would be the most precious possession in hell. Wisdom will order its days in relation to its ultimate goal.

***\*Psalm 90:12: So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.\****

***\*Hosea 7:9: Yes, gray hairs are here and there on him, yet he does not know it.\****

#### **Verses 17-18:**

--(17) Paul wants them to live in and for the will of God. To live outside of that is unwise. \*We are all inclined to idleness or irrelevant activity.\*

--The difference is living with perception or without perception. \*Think of the disciples with Jesus—so often without perception while He always lived in the moment!\*

***\*1 Chronicles 12:32: the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do. . .\****

--Do we perceive how our life fits into the will of God today?

--(18) Here Paul exhorts these believers ***do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation. . .*** the Greek word for ***be drunk*** (*methysko*) is used three times in Scripture (**Lk. 12:45; 1 Thess. 5:7**) and means to *grow drunk*, signifying the beginning stages. The Greek word for ***dissipation*** (*asotia*) is also used three times in Scripture (**Titus 1:6; 1 Peter 4:4**) and means *excess/riot* and describes being fully given over.

--Obviously, Paul’s exhortation is that these Ephesians believers would not turn to wine and be controlled by it, but turn to the Holy Spirit and be controlled by Him. ***\*Acts 2:4+13\****

--This is a warning about the use of wine of which there are many in Scripture (**Prov. 20:1; 23:30-35; 31:4-5; Lk. 21:34; Gal. 5:21; 1 Tim. 3:3**). Yes, it is not a total prohibition but it is a warning nonetheless! The emphasis should be the warning not our liberty.

--I would summarize it like this: If the people in your life would not say that you are a Spirit-filled man or woman, you should set aside all focus on drinking until they can.

--We must never underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit to possess and enliven a human soul! God can take control and totally fill, change, and use a person in remarkable ways.

**Verses 19-21:**

--(19) I think there is an obvious contrast here between the singing and joy that happens in bars, pubs, and clubs and that which happens in the hearts of redeemed men and women individually or when they gather together as the church.

--The Spirit of praise in God's house is unique and has never been replicated by any other religion or worldly experience. \*Think of the "praises" in other religious temples...\*

--**in your heart.** . . is more important than perfect pitch and wonderful for people like me who don't have the best singing voice.

--**to the Lord.** . . not to the crowd or your boyfriend/girlfriend.

--(20) Again, the general tone of Christian life should be one of gratitude. **Giving thanks always for all things.** . . God's goodness to us is sanctified by our gratitude to Him. That is the proper and fitting response that "closes the circle" and causes the gifts to connect us to the Giver.

**\*1 Timothy 4:4-5: For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.\***

**\*Luke 12:19-21: And I will say to my soul. "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." But God said to him, "Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?" So is he who lays us treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.\***

--(21) This becomes a transitional verse to acknowledge God's ordered human relationships in this world—marriage; children; parents; servants; masters.

--In every one of our lives, at some point, we are called to submit to Him by submitting to another faulty human.