

Ephesians 5:15–17

"Darkness Exposed by Light and Changed into It"

The apostle commands us to purchase time for our good Lord during the present evil age. The purchase price is the effort that it takes to be aware of ourselves and aware of God's Word.

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Chapter 5 verses 15 through 17 is our portion. This afternoon. It's bright.

Our father and heaven we pray for now now for the help of your spirit. That he would fill us. Even by your word that we have son. And also. Now by your word as we read and hear it proclaimed. That he would attend us by his power that he would.

Join us and conform us to Christ by faith that you would be glorified in your people. To ask in Jesus name amen.

Peace in chapter 5 verses 15 through 17, these are God's words.

See then that you walk. Circumspectly. Not as fools. But as wives. Redeeming the time. Because the days. Are evil. Therefore, do not be unwise. But understand. What the will of the Lord? Is.

So far. God's inspired and. Inerrant work.

We are the redeemed. God has purchased us by the blood of Christ. Who is himself God the Son. Which is an amazing thing so that the apostle even says in Acts chapter at Acts chapter 20 when he is having his last interview in this life with the elders of this church, which he's writing the church in Ephesus.

They are to take heed to themselves and their doctrine as they oversee and shepherd the flock of God, which he bought with his own blood. It is a marvelous thing to be a Christian someone who has been purchased by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. And we have been purchased to be purchasers.

Sometimes I hear people say we're redeeming this or redeeming that redeeming everything. And, There's a ordinarily a problem with the way they're talking because they're talking about redeeming things and terms that only God only the Lord Jesus who is the one who makes all things new is the one who redeems those things but you and I are told to purchase something in this passage.

Paul is he writes to the Ephesians tells them to redeem the time. To purchase the time you and I are to expend a cost and this expense this purchase the price that we pay in order to lay hold of time that is in the present evil age, he describes it in another way in another place and here he says the days are evil that we are to purchase time out of this age for our Redeemer for the one who has purchased us and we pay the price in two different ways.

One is, Paying attention learning about ourselves and the other is by paying attention learning about what the Lord says about himself and what we are to do. Scriptures principally teach what

man is to believe concerning God. And what duty God requires of man. So the first way we purchase our time is by walking circumspectly not as fools but as wise the idea behind the word that's translated circumspectly here is with awareness, especially.

In this particular case awareness of ourselves that we would be continually understanding evaluating considering ourselves and how we are doing according to the Word of God. Walking circumspectly means being thoughtful not just going on our way and whatever seems best at the moment but taking the time to hold the light of scripture upon what we have been doing and how we have been living and to be aware to use that mirror that James chapter 1 talks about.

And not going away for getting what we look like but then putting into action what the Lord says to do about one part of what God has given us his word for is said that we can be reflective about that we can reflect upon how we have been how we have been doing to live that way as to know that you live before the face of God to know that your heart is deceitful.

You do not by yourself automatically know. How you are doing. We all assume that we are doing well. And if you don't think you assume that just wait until somebody tells you that you are not doing well and see how your how your spirit the reflex of your spirit against that.

So there's one way that we purchased time by being aware of where the circumstances but here the word is especially with respect to ourselves understanding both the day that, We live in but especially understanding ourselves in life of the word of God. The second way we purchase the time is by studying to know what the Lord wants.

Therefore do not be unwise but understand what the will of the Lord is? In other words wisdom is not merely skill. But submission. Wisdom is not merely skill but submission. Think too often we think of wisdom as something that is impersonal it is the right way of thinking about and doing something but here wisdom is submission to how the Lord says to think obedience to what the Lord says to do so this skill but it is a skill of submitting to our master.

The fool is not first of all, the one who doesn't know the best stuff to do or how to do it. The fool is the one who says in his heart, there is no God. That's why wisdom begins not by figuring out what to do and how to do it wisdom begins by knowing yourself to be someone else's creature.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. So biblical wisdom is very personal. It is skilled but it is not so much skill as it is submission submission to him learning from his word what he wants and putting it into action that is the skill of wisdom so you and I are purchased from marvelous purchase the blood of God himself.

God the son was spilled and spent. To buy Jacobs. Those who in and of ourselves had forfeited all value whatsoever and yet he determined and decided to value us at the price of his blood we were marred not gold silver and precious and even worse day of the federal reserve notes there's inherent value gold silver and precious stones have inherent value and there's a signed value and a lot of people.

Are assigning a great deal of value to promises from the government but we who had compromised and given up. Our inherent value the Lord assigned to us the value of the blood of his son. And how it is for him who has done that that he says purchase your time.

Use your word to be aware of how you are thinking how you are living the choices you are making and use his word to be aware of what he wants you to do and make those things match and that's how we purchase time in an age in which this makes us foreigners.

That is the age to come. In which we will all be the purchased purchasers in this age you stick out like a sore thumb like light and salt and coming out of the previous passage versus 8 through 14 desiring that those who are liked and belonged to the age of life would be used by God to expose many who are still darkness in the process of his making them like.

And then let's pray.

Lord we thank you for giving us the privilege of going out to purchase to procure time that you have given us in the present evil age and we pray that you would make us wise that you would make us skillful in submission. That you would help us by your word to know our deceitful hearts.

And that you would grant to us by your word. To follow your will what you say it was understanding as we move through the scripture grant that your spirit would keep in our minds and hearts what we have seen and heard from other parts. Of your scripture so that we grow in this ability to purchase the time.

We ask it in Christ's name amen.

Sure.

Everyone here.