

Walk Carefully (Ephesians 5:15-18)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. “Walking” in Ephesians (4:1, 4:17, 5:2, 5:8)
 - B. Ephesians 5:15-18 read and outline of the sermon

- II. ***See to it that you walk carefully...*** (Eph 5:15)
 - A. Illustration: land mines
 - B. *See to it* – war-time urgency
 - C. *walk* – a Hebrew idiom used often by Paul in Ephesians
 - D. *circumspectly* – *akribos* = with precise care and diligence
 - E. *not as fools but as wise* – Christian in By-pass Meadow

- III. ***Redeeming the time...*** (Eph 5:16)
 - A. General notes about time in Scripture
 - B. 4 crucial aspects of time that will help you appreciate its value
 - 1. Time is limited
 - 2. Time is invaluable
 - 3. Time is irreplaceable
 - 4. Time is God’s sovereign gift
 - C. *Redeem* – **buy it up** (like Home Depot before a hurricane!)
 - D. Why? *Because the days are evil*
 - 1. Learn to identify the “land mines” (time wasters)
 - E. Be alert, when it comes to redeeming time:
 - 1. Unplanned time means certain sin
 - 2. Be on guard for sloth and sleep (Pr 6:10-11)
 - 3. Vain and sinful company steal time (1 Cor 15:33)
 - 4. Guard against worldly cares (Luke 12:16-20, Matt 16:26)
 - 5. Guard your mind from vain, useless thoughts (2 Co 10:5, Phlp 4:8)
 - 6. Wasteful reading material
 - 7. Modern technology
 - F. As I decide about my plans, consider:
 - 1. Do your planned activities make you *sinfully too busy*?
 - 2. Will your plans conflict with non-negotiable activities?
 - a. worship of God (Bible reading and prayer)
 - b. service to others (Matt 25:31-46)
 - c. *redeeming* implies a cost
 - 3. Will my decision conform me to the image of Christ?
 - 4. Am I wasting my time, or worse, another’s time talking too much?
 - G. Jesus redeemed the time, even when he was 12 years old (Luke 2)
 - H. The ‘master-thief’ that robs men of their time
 - 1. In order to *redeem time*, you must be redeemed yourself

- IV. ***... Understanding what the will of the Lord is*** (Eph 5:17)
 - A. Repent of using the Bible as ‘tea leaves’
 - B. The text is not referring to knowing God’s will as we usually think of it
 - C. Understand God’s will in the plan of redemption revealed in Ephesians