

# Keep Your Eye On The Ball!



## Pursuing Our Biblical Mandate in a Godless Culture

Part 3. Opportune Times

(Ephesians 5:15-17)

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### INTRODUCTION: Be Mindful of the Time(s)

MAIN IDEA: Wise Christians “keep their eyes on the ball” by availing themselves of the opportunities a providential God puts in their path.

#### 1. Watch Your Step!

*“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,<sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.<sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (Eph 5:15-17 ESV)*

- A. We must be careful how we “walk” in our Christian life. (See 5:1-14 and “walk” in Chapters 4,5)
- B. It is most natural for us to conduct ourselves without wisdom in this area of our lives.

#### 2. Make the Best Use of the Time

- A. The meaning of “time” (Vs 16) - “Kairos” (καίρος) time, season, opportunity vs. “Chronos” (χρόνος) clock  
*“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,<sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.<sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”*
- B. Strategic use of opportune times is due to the evil world around us. (“Redeem”/“Purchase” the time.)
- C. An example of availing ourselves of Opportune Timing from the Old Testament (From the Life of Esther)

*(Esther 4:13-16, ESV) Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews.<sup>14</sup> For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”<sup>15</sup> Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai,<sup>16</sup> “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.”*

#### 3. The Days are Evil

- A. “Evil Days/Times” – This period of time typified by people following wickedness in their daily lives.
- B. “Dark World” (See Ephesians 5:2-14. The dark world was a part of our former life before Christ.)
- C. An eternal perspective of God’s sovereignty, providence and power calms our fears in the darkness!

#### 4. Seek and Pursue the Will of God

*“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,<sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.<sup>17</sup> **Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.**”*  
(Ephesians 5:15-17 ESV)

- A. Foolish living is the result of not continually walking carefully and not continually looking for the opportunities our providential God is putting in our path.
- B. Those who walk carefully and wisely seek to understand the Lord’s plain and clearly revealed will. (See verse 10 – “discerning what is pleasing to the Lord.”)

*(Deuteronomy 29:29, ESV) “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, **but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.**”*

*(1 Chronicles 12:23,32, ESV):<sup>23</sup> These are the numbers of the divisions of the armed troops who came to David in Hebron to turn the kingdom of Saul over to him, according to the word of the LORD...<sup>32</sup> **Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, 200 chiefs, and all their kinsmen under their command.***

## **5. APPLICATION: Availing Ourselves of God’s Personal Opportunities**

- A. Consciously look for opportune times to do good to others.  
*(Galatians 6:10, ESV) “So then, as we have **opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.**”*

- **What opportunities is God putting before you right NOW?**

- B. Conduct yourself wisely when you are around those outside of the Christian faith.  
*(Colossians 4:5-6, ESV) “**Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.**<sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”*

- **Which non-Christians has God providentially placed in your spheres of influence?**
- **Are you careful and opportunistic in your ministry to those outside the faith?**

- C. Live wisely, knowing that our days are numbered in which we can make impact for the Lord.  
*(Psalm 90:12, NASB) “**So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.**”*

- **Do you live as if every day could be your last to do good?**

### **Ponder Point**

Based on what we’ve discovered today, what must YOU do specifically, in a new way to “**walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the opportunities, because the days are evil**”?