

Digging Deeper – Ephesians 5:15–21

Instructions for Christian Living

Written by Robert Lee (Elder at MACC)

Do you want to know about the inherent risks associated with sexual immorality? Are you interested in obtaining a deeper understanding of the value of time and what the quality of life really means? Isn't it assuring that, despite sin, you are the person God meant for you to be, and that at this moment, you are exactly where He needs you to be? If you answer yes to any of the questions above, this passage is right for you!

Monday

Pray. Read Ephesians 5:15–16. What warning does Paul give in Ephesians 5:15 and for what purpose? Read Ephesians 4:17–19. In verse 16, making the best use of time means taking advantage of every opportunity to serve. Does Paul encourage us to use this time in service to ourselves or in service to others in the eyes of God? Think for a moment about where and how your time is being spent. How many “new” ideas to serve can you and those close to you come up with this week? Are you waiting on the Lord to ask you to serve? Remember what Paul says about time!

Tuesday

Pray. Read Ephesians 5:17. What is meant by “understanding what the Lord’s will is” in this passage? Also, read Romans 12:1–2 (*A Living Sacrifice*), and 1 Thessalonians 4:1–6 (*Living to Please God*). If you have difficulty finding the answer in these passages, it is God’s will that you be sanctified (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

Wednesday

Pray. Ephesians 5:18 warns us not to get drunk on wine because it leads to debauchery and other types of immorality. This is the pathway toward greed and other sin, but there are warning signs along the way. Also, read Proverbs 20:1 and 31:4–7. Verse 18 also says that we should be “filled with the Spirit!” Notice that the word *Spirit* is capitalized in this verse. *Filling* is a step that follows the sealing of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13). *Sealing* is an action God took at the point of our new birth, which is a repeatable action. To be filled with the Spirit is to be controlled by the Spirit and is therefore crucial to successfully living a Christian life. Love, joy, peace, patience (forbearance), kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control are characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-26).

Thursday

Pray. Ephesians 5:19 addresses the way in which we should speak to one another, which is how? Please read this passage for the correct response. Many believe that these words refer to three larger categories: (1) the 150 psalms, (2) hymns or compositions addressed directly to God, and (3) spiritual songs and hymns about the Christian experience. Pay special attention to the fact that we are to sing and make music to the Lord from our heart!

Friday

Pray. Ephesians 5:20 suggests that we are to give thanks to God the Father *always and for everything* in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is human nature to react such that *our* hurt, *our* pain and *our* loss becomes the focus. Be encouraged to give thanks to God always and for everything in Jesus' name.

Saturday

Pray. Ephesians 5:21 completes the thought from verses 18–20. These verses combine to address how being filled with the Spirit manifests itself in the believer's life. They also serve as an introduction to the next section: 5:22–6:4, *Instructions for Christian Households*. It is my earnest prayer that you and your family be encouraged today to follow the instructions for Christian living provided in this week's scripture focus.