

TITLE AND NUMBER: 41. Living wisely

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Ephesians 5:15-20



Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

LOOKING FURTHER: Acts 2:13-21, Ephesians 1:7-8, Ephesians 1:17-21

What does this Bible passage tell us?

Paul wrote this letter to the Christians living in Ephesus to encourage their personal faith and to explain to them how they could help bring change to a sinful world.

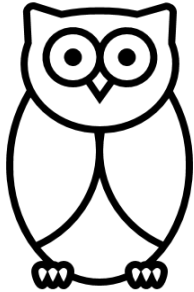
He says that we should live wisely and try to understand God’s Will. Wisdom is one of the greatest gifts God can give us and we should not hesitate to ask Him for it. Wisdom will help us to understand His Will for us. Paul writes about the poor decisions that we can make when drunk. Paul encourages us instead to be filled with the Holy Spirit. If we allow Him to live through us, we can experience God’s guidance and we will be helped by Him to do good things not bad.

Paul goes on to say that we should praise God joyfully, always giving thanks to Him in the Name of Jesus. Giving thanks is a very good thing to do because it highlights the positive things in our lives and draws us into a wonderful relationship with God. Although it is important to say sorry to God when we do wrong, it is equally important to thank Him. But it is something we so often forget. In the evening, go through your day and give thanks to God for every good thing that has happened, however small, thinking how it made you feel. You can then pick up on anything that did not go well and say sorry for your part in that. God will forgive you through His grace which, again, you can thank Him for. Giving thanks is a wonderful way to end your day.

Reflections:

- How important is it to you to make wise decisions? Why?
- Do you recognise wisdom in yourself? If not, ask God to give it to you.
- Why is it important to give thanks to God?
- If you don’t already give thanks to God at the end of the day, try it and see how you feel.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

