

LIVE WISELY BEING MINDFUL OF TIME CONSTRAINTS

(Prov. 9:1ff & Eph. 5:15-21)

Live wisely and be mindful of the time constraints as these days are evil. Life is lived either wisely or foolishly and the choice is always ours. Wisdom is an attribute of God who is all wise. God is the source of all wisdom. We get wisdom from God only through one avenue: Ps.111:10, says, “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*”

The word Wisdom is **feminine** in both original biblical languages. Hebrew *Hokmah* and Greek *Sophia* are feminine nouns. Why are they? Well, since females **give birth and bring life** into the world, they are blessed with a **motherly trait of nurturing and raising children**. A baby who is well nurtured with no deflection is most likely going to succeed in life. **Success in life is a product of sound practical judgments—or wisdom**. A person who makes sound judgements is considered to be **wise**.

The Apostle Paul encourages us Christians “*to be careful how (we) live, not as fools but as those who are wise.*” Life enterprises require skill that only wisdom can provide. So, be wise!

The first reading, Prov.9:1 says, “*Wisdom has built her house; she has carved its seven pillars (columns).*” This is figurative language referring to wise people. Individual persons can be wise and thus make wise friends or followers. On the other hand, foolish individuals can make foolish friends or followers. *Birds of the same feather flock together*. Proverbs says, Wisdom builds or carves columns for her house. No one builds a house or carves pillars without expertise. Only the wise can be thoughtful enough to build something that **lasts a lifetime**. There is **no opportunity** for foolishness for the wise.

Some Bible versions say, *Be careful how you walk* instead of “*be careful how you live.*” Again **walking** is a **metaphor** for life and living. The believer **walks day-by-day**. We **tread on a path of life every day**. We **rise up** in the morning to **walk the walk**, or **live the life**. We **contribute to the building of society** in which we live. A believer does not **try to tear down the fabric of society**. So, we walk or live **a calculated life as believers**.

As it is, believers **do not** live, build, or carve pillars in **isolation from others**. **Believers** do not live on an **isolated island**. Believers are **part of others**. **The ones that live a life** in its **fullness** and the **ones that destroy life in full destructiveness**, all live in the same world, sometimes in same neighborhoods. **Our life is not hidden from the public eye**. People around us know the kind of life we conduct.

For this reason, the apostle Paul advises Christians saying, “*Speak to one another with Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs...always giving thanks to the Father for everything.*” This means that our interactions should show humility, gentleness,

patience, and tolerance. As you know, singing requires harmony. To orchestrate harmony singers must unite their voices and their instruments. Mutual participation is involved. Beyond singing spiritual songs, all believers must show thankfulness to God the Father because he is our Provider of everything including wisdom. Singing spiritual songs can be a means of edification, teaching, prayer, and thanksgiving. Singing is used as a metaphor for unity in glorifying God.

Scripture labels the unwise as ***thoughtless, unthinking, and careless, engaged in drunkenness, and are worldly minded.*** The unwise **make mistakes** as though nobody is paying attention. They do not avoid **temptation**. They do **not calculate the risk** or **discipline themselves**. They **let their mouth loose because they lose control of themselves**.

Again, Prov. 9:1 says, “*Wisdom has built her house, she has carved its seven pillars.*” The number seven is given for a reason. Why the number Seven? In the Bible, number seven implies **completeness** or **perfection**. The idea is this, with wisdom nothing lacks. Wisdom completes or perfects everything in life.

Because of this we Christians ought to **care about our own integrity**. We must **control** our actions including what we say and what we do. We must remember that **our reputations** are at stake. Public reports about us must matter. So, we must avoid sin the best we can.

Finally, wisdom involves redeeming time. The idea is that **time must be saved**. A **Christian does not try to buy time**. **Time is a gift from God** and it is worthy redeeming. Some say that **time is our worst enemy**. So, we should put value to **time**. Hanging around is time wasted and it cannot be redeemed. **Time existed before** we were born, we were born into it. **Time was here before we were; Time will be here after we are long gone**. **Time is with us today; Time will be here without us**.

So, let us make a choice to put value on it; Be in worship if we can be in worship because that connects us to the source of all wisdom. **Serve God in Christ while time is available**. Witness to the lost and take advantage of the availability of time.

As the apostle Paul warns us, evil days are coming and they are here. Evil confronts us from every direction ranging from **mild temptation** to **full criminal act**; from **small money** to **full theft**, from **small squabbles** to **full war**.

Yes, let us be “*careful how (we) live, not as fools but as those who are wise,*” for the *days are evil*. The responsibility rests on our shoulders. Be wise! Be wise! Amen.