

## THE LITURGY OF THE SPIRIT-FILLED BAPTIZED

**Summary of what we will learn:** Paul describes the kind of “walk” that characterizes Christians who have given up pagan ways of life. Instead of the sexual immorality, impurity, and covetousness (from last week’s verses), they are to walk in wisdom, reclaiming evil days for godly use by singing, thanking, and submitting.

**Ephesians 5:15-21-** <sup>15</sup> Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> ~~making the best use of~~ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> addressing one another in psalms and hymns and ~~spiritual~~ songs of the Spirit, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

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v. 15 – once more, for emphasis, what is the biblical metaphor of “walking” all about?

“not as unwise but as wise” – what is *wisdom* in the Bible all about?

**Dr. Winger:** “Wisdom is the practical application of God’s Word to one’s faith and life. It is the wisdom of God as conveyed through his Spirit (1:8, 17; 3:10), referring primarily to the revelation of Christ as the long-promised Redeemer of the world. It is a deep understanding of God’s mind, a recognition of how his work and gifts in Jesus Christ affect every aspect of one’s life.”

How should Christians think about and act on this wisdom?

**Dr. Stoeckhardt:** “They are to be watchful and attentive in all their actions and speech, they are to avoid everything which offends Christians or unbelievers, they are to walk not as fools, but as wise. They are not to drift along without forethought and plan, but to give serious thought upon the ways and means by which they may accomplish their purpose, they are to study how they may help to build the Kingdom of God and advance the cause of Christ.”

V. 16 – ESV has a strange translation, go with “redeeming the time, because the days are evil”

**Dr. Winger:** “The metaphor refers to paying a purchase price to free a slave from his horrible plight...the Christian as an agent of God redeems the present time—or more precisely, he takes up and uses it as a gift redeemed for him by Christ...Salvation in Christ does not mean the Christian is immediately snatched from the grasp of this evil age, but that the age (the ‘time’) is snatched by Christ and redeemed for the Christian’s use.”

v. 18 – Drunkenness with wine is contrasted with being filled with (by) the Spirit

**Dr. Winger:** “because they are baptized (5:14), the Ephesians are filled up *in* and *with* the Spirit, who makes them wise in the Word of God (5:15-17) and leads them to acts of worship and submission (5:19-21)

So let's now talk about Worship, and touch on Submission which will be a bigger topic in weeks to come

v. 19 – Christians who are Spirit-filled will sing:

    Psalms – Greek word *psalmois* for the Book of the OT

    Hymns – Greek word *humnōis* from which we get the word “hymn”, a religious song

    Songs – Greek word *odais* from which we get the word “odes”, and here are religious

***Of the Spirit*** – the adjective “spiritual” in the NT means “of the Holy Spirit”

    “singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart” – not emotional, but instrumental

**Dr. Winger:** “ ‘in/with your heart,’ which refers not to internal, silent worship, but to the heart as the instrument of true worship inasmuch as the heart of the baptized is the dwelling place of the Spirit (1:18, 3:16-17). The Spirit’s role, furthermore, is always to direct the heart towards the Lord.”

A final word on Worship – **Dr. Winger:** “True praise is not simply language of adoration directed to God. Praise involves the proclamation of God’s mighty, saving deeds to one another within the royal priesthood (1 Pet 2:9). God is most pleased (praised) when Christians tell each other what he has done. Thus, the great praise songs of the Christian liturgy (such as the Gloria in Excelsis and the Agnus Dei) consist largely of the proclamation of the Gospel.

v. 20 – when did we see “thanksgiving” before?

    and what is one specific place such thanksgiving occurs?

v. 21 – what does “submission” mean?

So what are the effects of being filled with the Holy Spirit in Baptism?

- Addressing one another in Holy Song
- Offering up Thanksgiving to the Father in the name of Jesus
- Sub-ordinating yourself to others according to vocation