

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, and the background is a bright blue sky with some clouds. The text is overlaid on the center of the Bible.

Imitating the Father

Walk in Love

Scripture text: Ephesians 5

Paul begins with “**walk in love**” because love is the fundamental factor in the Christian life.

Walk As Children of Light (Eph. 5:3–14)

We are saints (vv. 3–4).

We are kings (vv. 5–6).

We are light (vv. 7–14).

It is impossible to be in darkness and light at the same time!

By our character and conduct, we bring God’s light into a dark world.

*Light reveals God; light produces fruit; but **light also exposes what is wrong.***

As we Christians walk in light, we refuse to fellowship with the darkness, and **we expose the dark things of sin for what they really are.**

“I am come a light into the world,” said Jesus (John 12:46). He also said to His disciples, “Ye are the light of the world” (Matt. 5:14). When He was here on earth, the perfection of His character and conduct exposed the sinfulness of those around Him. This is one reason why the religious leaders hated Him and sought to destroy Him. “If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin, but now they have no cloak for their sin” (John 15:22).

Romans 13:11-13 Besides this you know the time, that **the hour has come** for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The **night is far gone; the day is at hand**. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and **put on the armor of light**. **Let us walk properly as in the daytime**, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.

That Easter morning, when Christ arose from the dead, was **the dawning of a new day for the world**. **Christians are not sleeping in sin and death**.

We have been raised from the dead through faith in Him. The darkness of the graveyard is past, and we are **now walking in the light of salvation**. Salvation is the beginning of a new day, and **we ought to live as those who belong to the light**, not to the darkness. “Lazarus, come forth!”

The believer has no business in the darkness. **He is a saint, which means he is a partaker “of the inheritance of the saints in light”** (Col. 1:12). He is a king, because **he has been delivered “from the power of darkness” and has been translated “into the kingdom of His dear Son”** (Col. 1:13). **He is “light in the Lord”** (Eph. 5:8).

Colossians 1:11-14 May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, **who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light**. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom **we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

Ephesians 5:7-9 Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but **now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light** (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),

Walk in Wisdom (Eph. 5:15–17)

Circumspect comes from two Latin words which mean “**looking around.**” The Greek word carries the idea of precision and accuracy. “**See that you walk carefully, with exactness**” is the meaning.

The opposite would be walking carelessly and **without proper guidance and forethought.** We cannot leave the Christian life to chance.

We must make wise decisions and seek to do the will of God.

Ephesians 5:14–15 are related. Paul appeared to be saying, **“Don’t walk in your sleep! Wake up! Open your eyes! Make the most of the day!”**

It is sad to see many professed Christians **“drift” through life, like sleepwalkers, who never really make the most of opportunities to live for Christ and serve Him.**

Paul presented several reasons why we should be accurate and careful in our walk.

It is a mark of wisdom (v. 15). Only a fool drifts with the wind and tide.

A wise man marks out his course, sets his sails, and guides the rudder until he reaches his destination.

When a man wants to build a house, he first draws his plans so he knows what he is doing. **Yet, how many Christians plan their days so that they use their opportunities wisely?** True, we cannot know what a day may bring forth (James 4:13–17). **But it is also true that a planned life can better deal with unexpected events.**

Someone said, **“When the pilot does not know what port he is heading for, no wind is the right wind.”**

James 4:13-17 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"-- **yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring.** What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "**If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.**" As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. **So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.**

Life is short (v. 16a).

“Buying up the opportunity—taking advantage of it.”
An old Chinese adage says, “**Opportunity has a forelock so you can seize it when you meet it.** Once it is past, you cannot seize it again.”

Our English word opportunity comes from the Latin and means “**toward the port.**” It suggests a ship taking advantage of the wind and tide to arrive safely in the harbor. The brevity of life is a strong argument for **making the best use of the opportunities God gives us.**

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400.

It carries over no balance from day to day—every evening it erases whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day.

What would you do?

Draw out every cent, of course.

Each of us has such a bank. Its name is “time.”

Every morning it credits you with 86,400 seconds and every night it writes off as lost whatever portion of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance; it allows no overdrafts.

Each day it opens a new account for you; each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, **the loss is yours**. There is no going back, no drawing against the "tomorrow." You must live in the present on today's deposits. **Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in God's will**. The clock is running; **make the most of today**.

To realize **the value of one year**, ask the student who failed a grade; **one month**, ask the mother who gave birth to a premature baby; **one week**, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper; **one hour**, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet; **one minute**, ask the person who just missed a train; **one second**, ask the person who just avoided an accident; **one millisecond**, ask the silver medal winner in the Olympics.

Yesterday is history, tomorrow a mystery. Today is a gift. That is why it is called the present. Be wise, and remember to “redeem the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:15).

The days are evil (v. 16b).

In Paul's time, **this meant that Roman persecution was on the way (1 Peter 4:12–19)**. How foolish to waste opportunities to win the lost **when soon those opportunities might be taken away by the advances of sin in society!**

If the days were evil when Paul wrote this letter, what must be their condition today?

God has given us a mind (v. 17a). “Understanding” suggests using our minds to discover and do the will of God.

Too many Christians have the idea that discovering God's will is a mystical experience that rules out clear thinking. **But this idea is wrong—and dangerous.**

We discover the will of God as **He transforms the mind** (Rom. 12:1–2); and **this transformation is the result of the Word of God, prayer, meditation, and worship.**

If God gave you a mind, then He expects you to use it. This means that learning His will involves **gathering facts, examining them, weighing them, and praying for His wisdom** (James 1:5).

God does not want us simply to know His will; **He wants us to understand His will.**

God has a plan for our lives (v. 17b).

Paul alluded to this plan (Eph. 2:10). If God saved me, **He has a purpose for my life, and I should discover that purpose and then guide my life accordingly.**

He reveals His plan **through His Word (Col. 1:9–10), His Spirit in our hearts (Col. 3:15), and the working of circumstances (Rom. 8:28).**

The Christian can walk carefully and accurately because he knows what God wants him to do. Like the builder following the blueprint, **he accomplishes what the architect planned.**

This completes the section we have called “**Walk in Purity.**” The emphasis is on the new life as contrasted with the old life, **imitating God and not the evil world around us.**

In the next section, “Walk in Harmony,” Paul deals with the relationships of life and shows **how life in Christ can bring heaven to the home.**