

## **TAKE YOUR STAND IN JOY by Carl McMurray**

When the local church seems troubled it often gives the Devil opportunity to discourage some, drive wedges between others, and otherwise give him footholds to insert bitterness, injure pride, and cool off the zeal of love. It is at times like these that the inspired word in passages like **Ephesians 5:15-20** become valuable. Note the apostles admonitions...

**15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.**

Christians are encouraged to walk carefully, as wise men, making the best use of time. This careful walk may apply to carefully using and applying the Word to our lives, but since he is talking about a "walk," I rather think it is being applied to how we live. Live carefully. Use careful and gentle speech. Try and keep your words soft for you may have to eat them later. Use careful and wise judgments of others giving them the benefit of a doubt. Make the best use of your time by being an encourager, an edifier, a builder rather than falling into the habit of judging and criticizing.

**17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.**

Numerous passages could be quoted suggesting that the will of the Lord is for servants not lawyers; lights not secret things; and sinners with broken and contrite hearts not Pharisees and religious leaders. Foolish ones will not understand but wise men and women will.

**18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,**

Having the Spirit of God dwelling in the Christian, having it poured out and filling us, being baptized in the Spirit we should all be wells of salvation sharing that life giving regenerating work in the lives of those around us.

**19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

Walking carefully through life, understanding what the Lord wants of us, drinking freely of the Spirit and sharing Him with others the New Covenant Christian should be on the edge of singing all of the time, living in joy, finding things to be thankful for in abundance poured out on us daily in good times and bad. Free of worry and anxiety, full of trust and faith, surrounded by those of like precious faith who partake of the promises with us whether the number is two hundred or twenty. Don't give the Devil his opportunity to seek and destroy. Take your stand in the joy of the Lord.