

SERMON OUTLINE_final_1.6.19

Speaker: Pastor Buster Brown

Today's Message: Living with Intentionality: Know Your Environment/Season of Time

Today's Text: Ephesians 5:15-17

"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.¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." **Ephesians 5:15-17**

If I am to live with intentionality to the glory of God, the benefit of others, and my joy, I must have a renewed mind which leads to life patterns, **understand my environment**, and embrace community.

1. In light of the previous statement (Eph 5:3-14) be c_____ in how you walk or "give your f_____ a_____ to the path before you."
2. You show soundness/wisdom/intentionality by: s_____ your s_____ of time...and by understanding the w_____, p_____ horrid nature of evil.

"You will say that these are very small sins; and doubtless, like all young tempters, you are anxious to be able to report spectacular wickedness. But do remember, the only thing that matters is the extent to which you separate the man from the Enemy (God). It does not matter how small the sins are provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts." **C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters**

3. You respond to Ephesians 5:15-16 by seeking to u_____ the will of God. (v.17)

To understand the will of God, you ponder the biblical message in the context of community (the local church) and make prayer-laden application to daily living, or by responding out of the overflow of a Spirit-filled heart and life.

"We are all naturally blind; and hence the Word cannot penetrate our minds, unless the Holy Spirit, that internal teacher, by His enlightening power, makes an entrance for it."

John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, 3-2-34

"For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil."

Matthew 12:34b-35

"My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you,² making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding³ yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding,⁴ if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures⁵ then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God."

Proverbs 2:1-5

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ANSWER KEY: **careful, full, attention, seizing, season, worthless, painful, understand*