



Watch Your Step!
Series: Ephesians, #17
Ephesians 5:15-20
Pastor Lyle L. Wahl
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The call to be careful of how you live.

1. The imperative of having God's wisdom. (15; Psalm 111:10; James 1:5-8)
2. The imperative of making the most of your time. (16; 6:13; 2:2-3; James 3:15)

The call to understand God's will.

1. Understanding God's will.
(17; Psalm 32:8; Isaiah 30:21; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 4:3)
2. The foolishness of not understanding God's will.
(17, 15; Proverbs 1:7; 14:16; 17:12; 28:26; James 4:14-17)

The call to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

1. The analogy to being drunk with wine.
(18; Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-34; Luke 2:40; Colossians 3:16)
2. Some results, evidence of being controlled by the Holy Spirit.
(19-20; ; Colossians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:18)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. *Watch your step!* We know that a careless step can land us in trouble, flat on our back. Paul calls us to be careful of how we live, careful in our relationship with God. Being careless spiritually often begins with small steps rather than large leaps. Evaluate where you are, and take care to watch your step by staying close to God.

Tuesday. Verse 15 tells us to be careful by being wise. Remember, wisdom is more than knowledge, even great knowledge. The world has a bumper crop of knowledge, but a famine of wisdom. True wisdom from God is seeing, understanding the way things really are, ordering and using knowledge correctly. Read James 1:5-8 slowly, thinking about each part. Are you seeking and relying on God's wisdom today? If not, why not? It is wise to make the most of your time (verse 16). That includes seeking the things above, not bound by the things on earth. Review your priorities.

Wednesday. Another part of watching our step is to make sure we understand God's will. While God's will seems like an unknowable mystery to some, it is not. Sunday we focused on two aspects: God's revealed will in the Bible which we are to know and obey, and then the *way of wisdom* as found in James 1. Review the passage again, and any notes you made.

Thursday. In verse 18 Paul directs us not to be controlled by wine but by the Holy Spirit. He is referring to a day by day, ongoing process of surrendering control, drawing on the strength of God through the Holy Spirit. Are there areas where you have not considered giving God control, or have become rebellious by refusing His control? If so, confess that and embrace the amazing, wonderful life of being filled by and with the Holy Spirit.

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at *Negotiating the Relationship Maze* from 5:21–6:9. Read and think through these verses as you prepare for our time of worship together.