

## Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Sermon Road Map*  
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

**Ephesians 5:15-20**  
August 22, 2021

### Wake up, Christian. Walk in true wisdom!

- The losses of the COVID-19 pandemic are abundant and painful.
  - ♦ Loss of health, life, income, businesses, housing, employment, savings
- Reports of unexpected benefits - time to carefully consider how we live
  - ♦ *Am I living wisely, making choices that reflect my priorities?*
  - ♦ Results: change of employment, family time, location, and lifestyle - to live wiser
- Do we need a pandemic to reflect? The wise live reflecting on walking wise.
- *Awake, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.* Ephesians 5:14

### Wake up, Christian. Walk in true wisdom!

- ❖ True wisdom: what turns out to be beneficial in the end - in eternity
  - Wisdom is not be proven in the moment or even the short-term
  - Immediate & short-term benefit often deceive, covering up long-term consequence
    - ♦ This is especially true with sin and its *pleasures*.
    - ♦ The immediate pleasure and satisfaction can make sin **seem** like a wise choice.
    - ♦ The long-term toll on the body, relationships, retirement - reveal how foolish
    - ♦ Anything that is captivating and enslaving - masters you - no room for the Lord
    - ♦ Death reveals the foolishness of living for pleasures - abandoned forever
    - ♦ The forever existence of the fool: *shame and everlasting contempt.* Daniel 12:2
      - No matter how wise people were in worldly ways - they were in fact fools.
      - Fools who want to lure us from wisdom - lull us back into the sleep of death
  - God the Father sent Jesus, his Son, to make us *wise for salvation.* 2 Tim. 3:15
    - ♦ To expose Satan's and sin's deceptions that make foolishness appear wise.
    - ♦ Jesus exposes the consequences of sin to rescue us from being naive & fooled.
    - ♦ Jesus reveals the truth about eternity - being with God vs. being without God
    - ♦ Jesus offers genuine life now - a restored relationship with God.
      - That's what we were designed for - real life: rich, full, wise, deep, satisfying
      - Righteousness is not just God's rules. It is good, perfect, best, eternal...
      - *<sup>17</sup>... do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*
      - God's will: *God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who wants (wills) all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.* 1 Timothy 2
        - Rescued from sin's foolish deceptions - know reality - the truth he reveals
        - Wisdom knows reality - what is beneficial now & forever.
  - ❖ It is not wise to know what's wise, but neglect living it. **The wise act wisely.**
    - Intelligence and knowledge don't make you wise. Wisdom acts on the facts.
      - ♦ Jesus warns against those who know him, even know he is the Savior, but remain mere hearers of his word - not letting him and his word be their life.
      - ♦ *Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on bedrock.* The fool heard, but built on sand. Matthew 7:24
      - ♦ *Even more blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.* Luke 11:28
      - ♦ *the one who feeds on me will live because of me. ...The one who eats this bread will live forever.* Knowing the Bread of Life, but not eating is foolish.

- Those who treat Jesus merely as their Savior from hell remain fools.
  - ◆ Jesus came to save us from sin - a wasted self-destructive life.
  - ◆ *Awake, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.* Ephesians 5:14
  - ◆ *<sup>15</sup> Consider carefully, then, how you walk, not as unwise people, but as wise people. <sup>16</sup> Make the most of your time, because the days are evil.*
  - ◆ **Is this optional for a follower of Jesus?** No! Who's your Lord and Life?
    - You **don't** become a child of God by doing, but doing is **what** God's child does.
    - Evil is so prevalent it seems normal, lulling to sleep, drawing us in, fooling us
  - ◆ It's wise *to make the most of your time* - for our safety, our good, God's glory!
    - How? Rather than seeking our thrills and pleasures from what *feels good*, seek what **wisdom knows is good.** *<sup>18</sup> ... be filled with the Spirit*
    - The contrast reveals that *drunk on wine* is an example of anything that *intoxicates you* - causing *you to lose control* - acting like a fool.
    - When you are *filled with the Spirit*, wisdom rules your heart and life.
- ❖ God's wise people wisely engage each other with God's wisdom in worship
  - Paul linked *being wise* and *engaging in worship ministry* in Colossians 3:16
    - ◆ *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you **teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God.*** (Ephesians and Colossians are parallel letters)
  - Here's how we seek and are *filled with the Spirit* **God's way.**
    - ◆ It's **not** religious hype - intoxicating high-octane sight & sound experiences
    - ◆ **It's ministering to each other with the word delivered through music.**
    - ◆ Music helps deliver the word deep within, memorable and accessible
    - ◆ It encourages one another and equips us with wisdom the Spirit brings to mind
      - Speaking to each other from your heart - fills our personal life with engaging songs to counter the world's cunning and foolish *Siren Calls* to shipwreck us.
  - Look carefully. **Is it wise** to ignore these words and consider them *a suggestion*?
    - ◆ Really?! This is wisdom. It is profoundly foolish to ignore Paul's counsel!
    - ◆ God provides gifts to optimize your life and keep you safe from foolishness.
    - ◆ We need each other to consider carefully how we walk - to remain awake & wise
    - ◆ This calls for **mindful & purposeful** gathering to minister to each other.
      - Merely consuming worship is not wise - depriving yourself and others
      - Come with the **intent** to wisely put the word on your tongue and serve
      - Those who consider gathering to serve to be unnecessary are falling asleep.
    - ◆ When health and circumstances prevent gathering - blessed with Zoomcast
      - What does wisdom tell you about participation in worship at home?
      - It may feel strange to *talk to yourself*, but the word spoken & sung works deep
      - All our actions in worship communicate truth wisely practiced. Is it any less effective when you purposefully participate in worship at home?
  - With the word we gain the wisdom to recognize reasons for thanksgiving always!
    - ◆ Not just in pleasant times, but even in suffering and trials - our God is at work
    - ◆ Satan wants to rob us of joy and make us think it's foolish to follow Jesus.
    - ◆ Wisdom short-circuits Satan's deceptions seeing God's blessed hand in all things.
    - ◆ As long as Jesus is my Lord, wisdom is thankful. Jesus is working for my good.
    - ◆ Consider how much richer your life is living in the atmosphere of thanksgiving.
      - Here is where a full spectrum of hymns give a voice to give thanks always.
      - What a witness to the wisdom of Christ - those under sin's consequences envy us

**Wake up, Christian. Walk in true wisdom!**