

Ephesians 5:15-21

15-16 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,<sup>16</sup> making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

- There are so many things in this world that are competing with our schedule with God. Video games, sports, recreational activities, travel, school work, enemies, friendships and even some family. We all have the same amount of time in a 24 hour period, therefore the excuse of being too busy cannot be true apart from poorly prioritizing. We must make the best use of our time because the days are evil and seek to gain a foothold on us.

17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

- When we know what the will of the Lord is, then we can make better use of our time because it is centered on what is pleasing to Him. To not seek the will of the Lord would be the most foolish experiment we could ever face.

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

- Paul reminded the Christians in the Ephesian church not to get drunk with wine for that is spiritually destructive. The converts to Christianity in Ephesus had a checkered background, for they had come out of a very heathen background. Prior to Christianity, the Ephesians practiced the art of mixing the blood of an animal with alcohol and then drinking it, believing that in the drunken stupor the animal's spirit would be in them. The heathen would begin to play their instruments and work themselves into a stupor until they were convinced that the spirit of the animal was in them.
- Paul continues with a better plan for the Christians, be filled with the Holy Spirit. That would make better sense if perhaps he explained just how exactly this was to be done.

19 speaking to one another in [psalms](#) and [hymns](#) and spiritual [songs](#), [singing](#) and [making melody](#) with your heart to the Lord;

- 1) ψαλμός, *n* {psal-mos'} 1) a striking, twanging 1a) of a striking the chords of a musical instrument 1b) of a pious song, a psalm
- 2) ὕμνος, *n* {hoom'-nos} 1) a song in the praise of gods, heroes, conquerors 2) a sacred song, hymn
- 3) ᾠδή, *n* {o-day'} 1) a song, lay, ode
- 4) ᾄδω, *v* {ad'-o} 1) to the praise of anyone, to sing

5) ψάλλω,ν {psal'-lo} 1) to pluck off, pull out 2) to cause to vibrate by touching, to twang  
2a) to touch or strike the chord, to twang the strings of a musical instrument so that they gently vibrate 2b) to play on a stringed instrument, to play, the harp, etc. 2c) to sing to the music of the harp 2d) in the NT to sing a hymn, to celebrate the praises of God in song

- In summary, Paul is reminding the Ephesians Christians of the first century that they can be filled up with the Holy Spirit through the carrying out of music written for psalms, hymns and songs through not through the plucking of an instrument and the drinking of blood, but through the plucking of the greatest instrument of all...the human heart. If we are singing in spirit and truth toward the Lord and unto the Lord, we are plucking the heart strings and God loves this. It is exactly what the Father ordered to lift our spirit toward Him.

20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; 21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

- Our singing must be offered to God with a thankful heart and we must be in submission to one another.