

While We're Living In Evil Days

In Eph. 5:10 the Bible says, "Redeeming the time because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:16). That means we are to make the most of every opportunity in regard to our time. Our day is a time of wicked lives, broken homes, wayward children and corruption in man's social, business and political lives.

I. **Christians Should Learn the Will of the Lord**—"Understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Eph. 5:17).

Why should we seek it? You should *because it is right*. Sometimes we are wrong but our Lord never is. Whatever way He leads us will be right. We should always seek the will of the Lord *because it is fair*. God will govern our lives and be unfair in doing it. "Fair" means just or equitable. You also should learn the will of the Lord because it is *satisfactory*. If you are a born again child of God, you will never be satisfied unless and until you learn what the will of God is for your life. It is not always easy to know His will but it is possible and knowable.

II. **Christians Should Live the Spirit Filled Life**- Eph. 5:18 commands "Be filled with the Spirit."

Drunkenness and spiritual ecstasy are contrasted in this passage. What does this speak of? Several words express what is involved. There is *control*. As a drunkard is controlled by alcohol in a bad sense, the Christ is to be controlled by the Spirit of God in a good sense. Our other word is *domination*. Either the world, flesh or the devil will dominate us or the Lord will. The best results will come if the Lord dominates our lives through His Word and His Spirit. Then there is *constancy*. The Spirit-filled life is not to be a spasmodic thing, but a continual experience.

III. **Christians Should Lift With Spiritual Songs**- Eph.5:19 says, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs making melody in your hearts to the Lord" (v.19).

So much of today's music in churches has little or no spirituality about it. *Spiritual songs will harmonize with the Scriptures*. If a song does not have truth in it, it is not a spiritual song. Also, *spiritual songs will cheer the heart*. There is power in the happy life and that kind of life can be used to bring much glory to the Lord. *Spiritual songs will point us Heaven-ward*.

IV. **Christians Should Express Gratitude to God**- "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph.5:20).

Every redeemed heart should be a thankful heart. *We should be thankful for our pardon* (Psm.25:11). We are free only because the Lord gave us a pardon from our sins through the sacrifice of His Dear Son. *We should be thankful for our possessions*. God has been good to us to let us have the material things we possess. Isn't God good? We can all say an "amen."