

*Wise Living in a Foolish World*  
Ephesians 5:15-17  
The Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 2, 2008

Our “walk” is to be characterized by love (5:2) and light (5:8). These characteristics are radically distinct from the world’s dark, futile walk (5:17-18), and are the hallmarks of those who seek to “walk worthy” of the call God has given us in Christ. Together love and light shine through the Christian life and community in the form of “wisdom,” and it is this to which Paul now turns in his description of the life of the Kingdom made present in the lives of the King’s people.

**I. *Question Time: What Time Is and What Time Is It?***

- A. God’s good creation
- B. Marking and governing life

**II. *Redeem the Time***

**A. *Analyze – Ephesians 5:15***

- 1. Vanishing vapor – James 4:14
- 2. The Days of Our Lives – Psalm 90:12
  - *Time is the currency of life; how we invest it demonstrates the goals we cherish and the faith we possess.*

**B. *Utilize – Ephesians 5:16***

- 1. Towards God – Proverbs 4:5-8
- 2. Towards unbelievers – Colossians 4:5-6
- 3. Towards vocation – John 17:4
  - *Time is the gift of God; we must find his hand in it and follow his lead.*

**C. *Prioritize – Ephesians 5:17***

- The word “first” appears 435 times in the Bible. What is your “first thing”?  
Matt.6:33;  
1 Tim. 2:1; Proverbs 3:9-10; Rev. 2:5; Rom. 1:8
- 1. For the Kingdom of God
- 2. For the Eternal
- 3. For the Covenant
- *Time does not ask me “What is God’s will for your life?” Rather, time asks me, “What is God’s will?” Answering that question delivers me from egocentricity and launches me into the Great Commission.*

**III. *Standard Time – Colossians 2:9***

- Greenwich and the World
- Christ prepared for 30 years and worked for three; we prepare for three and hope to work for 30. We must come to his feet and learn of him.