

THIS IS NEW!!!! FROM NOW ON WE WILL NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

NOTES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: 10/12-13/2020

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Ephesians 5:15-21*

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221
For Audio & notes from previous studies-- www.ptwente.com

**7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING
CLASSROOM AND ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS:
CONTINUING IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS!**

**Monday 7pm Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS112,
CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484 - Mon 7 pm!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763

Passcode: 087484

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)

**Tuesday 7am Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).
THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING THE FAMILY
ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM**

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 Passcode: 715340 - Tues 7 am!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746>

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746

Passcode: 715340

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,85309150746# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,85309150746# US (Tacoma)

OPENING PRAYER - Introduction

Eph 5:2 And walk in love, Eph 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light. Eph. 5:15 Walk circumspectly!

Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

THE GOODNESS OF GOD

*I love You Lord, Oh Your mercy never fails me. All my days I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up Until I lay my head. I will sing of the goodness of God*

*Chorus - All my life You have been faithful. All my life You have been so, so good. With every breath
that I am able I will sing of the goodness of God*

*I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire. In darkest nights You are close like no other. I've
known You as a father. I've known You as a friend. I have lived in the goodness of God. (Chorus)*

*'Cause Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You everything
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me (2X)*

*(Chorus) (2X)
Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God*

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Ephesians 5:15-21

Review:

Chapters 1-3 Doctrine – all the blessings in the heavens

Chapter 4 Walk in unity; Spiritual Gifts; The new man; Do not grieve the Spirit

Chapter 5 Walk in love; Walk in light - This week – Walk in wisdom

Eph 5:14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

Walk in Wisdom

Eph 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

Eph 5:16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Eph 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Eph 5:20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Eph 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Walk in Wisdom

Eph 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

- ***See then*** (connecting to previous verse) ***that you walk circumspectly*** (*akribos* - perfectly, exactly, precisely) **means that you look round** (*circum*; *spectly* – to see). You inspect before you move, taking a general overview and only then you begin to walk. (***Col 4:5***) *Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.* That is what it means to walk circumspectly, making assessments as we go, considering how it's going to affect others. That is a part of exercising wisdom. This wise man walking circumspectly is the exact opposite of the unwise fellow who is governed only by instincts, impulses, desires and an uncontrolled zeal!
- **The wise man thinks not only of himself** but stops and realizes that there are other people who are going to be involved in how he lives and what he does. The Christian, in order to walk circumspectly, is constantly reminding himself that he is a Christian. He should remind himself of that as he wakes up every morning. If we do not think of others and their position, we shall not act as light with respect to them. We shall not awaken them out of the darkness and the death which they are in, bringing them to the light of Christ!
- ***Walking Circumspectly, sharing the Gospel, Christians must exercise tact and patience, considering different types of people!*** It is our business to present the truth in such a way that it will have something to say to all. Not only to one type but to all types. If we fail to do that we are not walking circumspectly.

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

- **Contrasting between the fools (*asophos*) and the wise (*sophos*)!** We are to ***walk perfectly, circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise!*** ***Fools***, in the original language is *asophos*, and the wise, which is *sophos*. The Greek has a negative “a” prefix, so the fool means, “is not wise – no wisdom”! The contrast between the fool, who does not walk circumspectly, who wastes his life, without purpose, just wasting time is just like we were before coming to Christ! That is when our lives really began to count for something worthwhile, all the way through eternity
- **How are we to walk? By not being fools, but being Christlike!** We are to walk in this world, even as our Lord Jesus Christ did, following His steps. We are called in our way to function as He did when He was here on earth, in this world of time. How can we do this? We do it by not being fools, being unwise, but by being wise and by manifesting and exercising wisdom.
- ***Walk not as fools but as wise;*** Not behaving as the foolish man behaves. I can arrive at a positive definition of wisdom by contrasting it with foolishness. The Bible says, (***Psa 53:1***) *The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity; There is none who does good.*

not as fools but as wise,

- **The wise man is a man who is always thinking, not merely acting on his instinct, impulse or desire.** He is a man who insists upon thought, reason, thoroughly examining every proposition and situation. He is a good listener, giving ear to all the evidence and argument a fair hearing, doing so with great patience, demonstrating wisdom!
- **That is the essence of wisdom. We are given it all here, (*Eph 5:15-17*)** *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, [16] redeeming the time, because the days are*

evil. [17] Therefore do not be unwise but understand what the will of the Lord is. That is the ultimate. There are the eternal principles Everything must be put in the light of these eternal principles. He then proceeds to put them into practice with enthusiasm, zeal, energy and with all the vigor that God has given him.

- **Let us examine ourselves in the light of this. How closely are our lives governed by this wisdom?** Is this how we act in our contact with unbelievers? Do we use wisdom when anxiously thinking of those who are not Christians? Do we meet people where they are, or do we rush in and perhaps do irretrievable harm? The Christian is to be wise. He that is wise wins souls! His every action and thoughts are always brought into relationship with the truth of God, being *children of light*, seeing that they *walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise!*

Eph 5:16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (Ecc 11:2) Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.

- **Redeeming** (*exagorazō* - buy up, rescue from lost—(*Gal 3:13; 4:5, Col 4:5*) **the time, meaning purchasing the time, buying up opportunities!**—the other characteristic of this wisdom (*walking circumspectly* and *redeeming*). It is wise to redeem the time. It is foolish to waste time. The Christian is a man who, because of all these things, **redeems the time**, realizing this is not our home, that we are just passing through! The life of the Christian is that which is coming! That is the realm to which he belongs, but here he is in an evil world, saying while I am here, I must make use of the opportunity.
- **Redeem the time, anxiously looking for opportunities.** You cannot do this if you are wasting your time. We are to be alert, be alive, seeking opportunities! In these last evil days, we must be ready to grasp them and to take hold upon them. (*1Pe 4:3*) *For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.*
- **You are to redeem the time**, says the Apostle, for your own sake. How am I then to see to it, during the remainder of my brief life in this evil world, that I buy up the opportunities? (*Psa 71:18*) *Now also when I am old and gray-headed, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.*
- **Think also of redeeming the time as it is applied practically in the matter of speech.** You not only live like this because you know other people are looking at you, but when you are in conversation with them you are full of wisdom, discretion and understanding. You watch for your opportunities to present the Gospel and to what it says! **Is that a practice of yours?**
- **We long to hear that exhortation on our judgment day!** (*Mat 25:34b-35*) *Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: [35] for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; You see, they bought up every opportunity, they were living in the light of this and they redeemed the time.* That is the exhortation! (*Mat 25:21*) *His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

- **because the days are evil** (*ponerous* – active opposition to that which is good; degeneracy with an undertow, sucking to destruction; pornography) tells us why we must be so circumspect. The days are evil. (*2Ti 3:1-7*) *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: [2] For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, [3] unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, [4] traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, [5] having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn*

away! [6] *For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, [7] always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.* Christians realize that behind men is this other awful, evil, infernal power which is intent upon bringing to ruin God's glorious creation and everything that is in it. It is actively evil. If a man does not realize that, he cannot possibly live as he should be living.

Eph 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

- ***Therefore do not be unwise,*** Do not be unwise, being contrasted with having wisdom or being wise. Do not be ignorant, but be understanding as to the will of the Lord for your life, which comes from a good knowledge of His word.
- ***Do not be unwise!*** The unwise, in contrast to the wise, does not walk circumspectly, but are living without purpose, just wasting time as they meander through life. But how that is changed now that we are His! Our lives now really began to count for something worthwhile, something eternal!
- ***What then is the will of the Lord?*** What does it mean? It means the very thing we were told back in *verse 10: 'finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. (Rom 12:2) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.* The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. What else, is His will? ***(1Th 4:3) For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;*** This is the **will** of God, even your sanctification! In ***(Eph 1:4) just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,*** Holiness is always the characteristic of the Christian. This is what the **will of the Lord is.** This is what He wants me to be. He wants me to be somebody who will act and live in such a way as to draw others to Him! **Do you know what God's will is for your life, right now? Do you have an understanding of what the will of the Lord is?** Don't be unwise. Don't be ignorant. But be understanding as to the will of the Lord for your life.
- ***The will of the Lord is looking at the cross of Christ!*** Reading the inscription—I did this for you, what have you done for me? He is a man who, having realized what God has done for him in Christ, feels that he does not belong to himself. ***(1Co 6:20) For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*** Therefore, serve God with your body, with your spirit, with the whole of your being. This is the believer's one desire! He knows that the Lord's desire is that he should show to the world that the Lord has delivered him from sin, has made him holy and is preparing him for heaven. You cannot go wrong if you **keep doing the will of the Lord** in your mind!
- ***Living as Christ lived!*** Look at the Son of God as He lived in this world. We are to try to live like that, to follow His steps who did no wrong. ***(Eph 5:1) Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.*** Imitate the Lord Jesus Christ, not to make yourselves Christians, but because you are Christians. We are to follow in His steps. We are to deny ourselves, to take up the cross and to follow Christ. As we do so, our lives will be holy, they will be steady, attracting poor sinners who are beginning to realize their state and their need. Here is His will: ***(Mat 5:16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*** That is the exhortation here, '*Let your light so shine!*'

Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation

(nothing good! **No redeeming quality**; *asōtia*, riot, salvation-*soteria*); **but be filled with the Spirit**, (Pro 20:1) *Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.*

- **And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but in contrast; be filled with the Spirit;** It's interesting that Paul puts two seemingly such diverse things together. It doesn't seem that they fit together! But what is a person seeking, who is getting drunk? Is it not trying to find relief, from the problems of the world, which are too painful? He uses the alcohol to get an altered state of consciousness, so he doesn't have to think about his problems. When a person is filled with the Spirit, his problems are taken care of. We commit them to the Lord! We don't worry about them anymore. It's in the Lord's hands! He will take care of it!
- **Alcohol is a depressant! The Holy Spirit is a stimulant!** Alcohol "loosens up" people because it depresses their self-control, their wisdom, their balance and judgment. It makes one's thinking fuzzy! The Holy Spirit has an exactly opposite effect because He is a stimulant! He moves every aspect of our being, to better and more perfect performance. Any desirable effect from alcohol is soon offset as the depressant takes hold. Nothing good can come from the alcoholic alternation of your mind. The Holy Spirit always build one up, putting power into us! Alcohol always leads one down!
- **The Spirit filled Christian life is a controlled life, it is an ordered life.** It is the very reverse of the condition of the drunkard who has lost control, and is being controlled by something else, as it were, and who is therefore in a state of utter disorder and disarray. *Dissipation* of wine leads to a condition which is characterized by the loss of understanding, the loss of refinement, the loss of judgment, the loss of balance. That is what drinking does. The Holy Spirit always gives control. Alcohol always diminishes one's control!
- **The Christian life is not a wasteful life, but a productive life.** Here is this wonderful contrast. Drunkenness always leads to *dissipation*, always leads to waste, wantonness, destruction and squanders time and energy. He does things that he would not do in his sober moments. He throws away his most important characteristics!. The most precious gifts that God has given to man, he throws away—the ability to think and reason and compute and understand, and all the balance. It is all dissipated. That is what makes drunkenness such a terrible thing. It is always destructive. The Christian life on the other hand is the exact opposite of all this.
- **The great characteristic of the Christian life conserves, it builds up, it adds to what we have.** One is always gaining something, always learning something new. It is a life that preserves and conserves and increases everything that is best in man. It is the precise opposite of the kind of life that was lived by the Prodigal Son; and it is so in every respect. The Prodigal threw away his money with both hands. The Christian holds and conserves. He does not throw money away without thinking what he is doing. He is truly a steward of his money, and of everything else.
- **In contrast with the conduct of the world being drunk with wine, we are to be filled with the Spirit.** The grammar clearly says, "be constantly being filled with the Holy Spirit." It is a constant filling, asking to be filled, and receiving the filling by faith. Peter, addressing the Sanhedrin - (Act 4:8, 31) *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: [31] And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.* Paul in Damascus - (Act 9:17; 13:9) *And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." [13:9] Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him (at Cyprus-Elymas)*

- **Be filled** (passive, command, a constant filling with the Spirit, asking to be filled, receiving the filling by faith). **Be filled** indicates these two important things. First, the verb is *passive*, so this is not a manufactured experience. Second, it is imperative, so this is not an optional experience, but is a command to be given constantly, over and over!
- **Much of the weakness, defeat and lethargy in our spiritual lives** can be attributed to the fact that we are not constantly being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing (Act 16:25) But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

and making melody in your heart to the Lord, (Jas 5:3) Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.

Eph 5:20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father (Psa 34:1) I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, (1Pe 2:5) you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- **Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord:** When we are filled with the Spirit, we will have a desire to worship God, and to encourage others in their worship of God. Those who are filled with the Spirit will naturally praise, and praise is a way that we are filled with the Spirit. **Making melody in your heart to the Lord.**
- **Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs:** This variety suggests that God delights in creative, spontaneous worship. The most important place of us to have a **melody** to God is in our **heart**. Many who can't sing well have the most beautiful melodies in their **heart**.
- **Giving thanks always for all things to God:** The one who is filled with the Spirit will also be filled with thanksgiving. A complaining heart and the Holy Spirit just don't go together. This is the same thanksgiving pattern as Paul practiced in prayer in (**Eph 3:14**) - *giving thanks to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*.
- **Speaking to yourselves** - Speaking among yourselves, that is, endeavoring to edify one another, and to promote purity of heart, by songs of praise. This has the force of a command, and it is a matter of obligation on Christians. From the beginning, praise was an important part of public worship, and is designed to be to the end of the world.
- **We have to be altogether different in our essential characteristics**, unlike what we were, unlike the world, from men and women who still belong to that realm. We are to be filled with the Spirit. How do we show that? Here we were told how to worship. **Speaking to yourselves (to one another) in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God** and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ'. You are filled with the Spirit, he says, and you meet together to have your meetings, your cordial meetings of happiness and of joy. You are to express all that together in worship of God and praise and adoration. He is emphasizing his basic theme by showing that Christians who are filled with the Spirit are to show that characteristic in their dealings with one another.
- **Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;** Giving thanks always for what? For all things. To whom? To God. Through whom?

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! In all things, give thanks, *(1Th 5:16-18) Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Eph 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God. (Php 2:3) Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

- ***Submitting to one another in the fear of God.*** One of the major problems confronting man is getting along with one another. The world is characterized by divisions, clashes, everybody wanting to be first, everybody wanting to be important. We're told here that there is really only one solution to that problem, and that is men and women be filled with the Holy Spirit of God. It is only as they are filled with the Holy Spirit of God that they can and will submit themselves one to another in the fear of God.
- ***Submitting, (to be under rank), to one another in the fear of God:*** When we are filled with the Spirit, it will show by our mutual submission to each other; and the submission will be *done in the fear of God*, not the fear of man. Submitting is a military word. It speaks of the way that an army is organized among levels of rank. You have generals, majors, captains, sergeants and privates, all military levels of rank, which are obligated to respect those in higher rank.
- ***Submitting to one another:*** To understand what this means, we can first examine what it does not mean. It does not mean that there is no idea of "rank" in the body of Christ. We can see how someone might take that impression. "It says we should be *submitting to one another*. So I should be submitting to you and you should be submitting to me. No one has any more obligation to submit than anyone else."
- ***Difficulty in submitting to one another in the fear of God.*** Jesus, speaking to His disciples said how the Gentiles lord it over others, not submitting, said, *(Mar 10:42-45) But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. [43] Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. [44] And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. [45] For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*
- ***The motive for submitting to one another, is respect for Jesus Christ.*** If we respect Jesus, we then should submit to one another because we love Him. Paul uses the term *fear* in this passage, but it is a *fear* - a respect - that is compatible with love. It is a *fear* of disappointing Jesus, a *fear* of grieving Him. That is totally compatible with love. When you really respect someone, you care about pleasing him or her, and you are afraid to disappoint that one.
- ***Men of the world do not know nor are aware that these are evil days.*** They regard these things as having a good time, they boast of it. They boast about drunkenness, the thing that causes so much unhappiness and breaks down families. It is said to be wonderful and you are out of step, behind the times, if you do not do such things. They do not see that it is just this evil power that has got them. **But you and I are to think for them, to do all we can to deliver them and to get them out of this evil power that is controlling them. Oh! how they need to repent and to come to Christ. May we be His light to them! We are to the light of the world! Are we?**