

LIVING AS WISE IN CHRIST

(Part 1: Ephesians 5:15-17)

In their fallen sinful condition, all men and women are foolish because they deny and despise God and rebel against Him and His Word (Ephesians 4:18; Romans 1:21-22; 8:7; Psalm 14:1; 2 Timothy 3:7). God alone through the saving gospel of Christ has the power to turn our rebellious foolishness into godly wisdom. The moment God has saved us, He has transferred us from the domain of foolishness to the domain of wisdom. In other words, when we got saved, we became wise in Christ. **Since God has made us wise in Christ at the moment of our salvation, we must therefore live in godly wisdom.** Ephesians 5:15-17 lays out three instructions on how we could pursue a life of godly wisdom.

1. Give careful attention to how you live as a _____.

When you become a Christian, you cannot just live recklessly and aimlessly. God has called you to live a particular manner of life, which is a careful and wise walk with Him (Ephesians 5:15). At the moment of your salvation, God has deposited in you the treasure of the wisdom and knowledge of Christ (Ephesians 1:7-8; 1 Corinthians 1:30). This wisdom in Christ has given you the spiritual ability to know and worship the Lord as the one and only true God. The person who truly knows God and who wholeheartedly fears, reveres and loves the Lord is the one who is genuinely wise (Proverbs 9:10; John 17:3). Wisdom is the God-given insight and ability to know the Lord, to understand His Word and to apply its truths and principles to everyday situations of your life (2 Timothy 3:14-15; Colossians 3:16; Matthew 7:24; Hebrews 13:5-6; Isaiah 41:13; Psalm 34:4; 38:8-10,14; 43:5). The wisdom of Christ also provides every believer with the spiritual insight into God's glorious plan for His people (Ephesians 1:8-10).

In light of the infinite riches of God's wisdom invested in our lives, it will be such a sad predicament for us to live as unwise and foolish believers. However, the heartbreaking reality is that when we are not careful, we could regress and revert to a life of foolishness. We revert to being foolish when: (a) we distrust and disbelieve God's Word (Luke 24:25-27); (b) when we disobey and sin against God (2 Samuel 24:10; James 3:14-16); (c) when we decide to yield to worldly and harmful desires (1 Timothy 6:9; 1 John 2:15-16). By God's grace, we must declare this biblical resolve each day: *"I'm going to take the path of godly wisdom. I'm renouncing the sin of reverting to foolishness for the sake of a careful, wise and God-honoring walk with Christ!"*
