

## WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY

TEXT: (Proverbs 27:12, NIV)

<sup>12</sup> The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.

### INTRODUCTION

1. “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*” (Ephesians 5:15-17, KJV).
2. “So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. (Ephesians 5:15-17, NLT).
3. “Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is” (Ephesians 5:15-17, NIV).

### I. LIFE IS A GIFT FROM GOD

#### A. Entrusted with the Gift of Life

1. “So, my very dear friends, don’t get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. He brought us to life using the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all his creatures” (James 1:16-18, MSG).
2. “To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability” (Matthew 25:15, NIV).
3. “The man with the two talents also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.’  
“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness’” (Matthew 25:22-23, NIV)!
4. “Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 25:28-30, NIV).

#### B. Careful How You Walk

1. “Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:15-16, NASB).

#### C. Numbering Our Days

1. “Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12, NIV).
2. “Teach us to number our days” (Psalm 90:12, NIV).

### II. PRUDENT STEPS TO AVOIDING DANGER

1. “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one” (Matthew 6:13, NIV).
2. “But the simple keep going and pay the penalty” (Proverbs 27:12, NIV).

A. Analyze How You Live

1. "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" (Proverbs 19:21, NIV).
2. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5, NIV)
3. "Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed" (Proverbs 16:3, NIV).
4. "Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors *there is* safety" (Proverbs 11:14, KJV).

B. Prioritize Your List

1. "Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days" (Ephesians 5:16, NLT).
2. "Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do" (Ephesians 5:17, NLT).
3. "Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants" (Ephesians 5:17, MSG).
4. "You have been faithful with a few things (on earth); I will put you in charge of many things (in heaven). Come and share your master's happiness" (Matthew 5:25:21, NIV).

C. Commit to Working the List of Priorities

1. "Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed" (Proverbs 16:3, NLT).
2. "The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty" (Proverbs 27:12, NIV).

III. CHRISTIAN PRIORITIES

1. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:1-2, NIV).

A. Our Relationship to God:

1. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37-38, NIV).
2. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33, KJV).
3. "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting" (Daniel 5:27, KJV).
4. "Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:21, KJV).

B. Relationship to one's spouse:

1. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, ...husbands, love your wives" (Ephesians 5:22,25, KJV).
2. "Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them" (Colossians 3:19, NIV).
3. "Husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself" (Ephesians 5:28, NIV).

C. Relationship to Children:

1. “Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him” (Psalm 127:3, NIV).

D. Relationship with Others

1. “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’” (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV).
2. “The prudent see danger and take refuge” (Proverbs 27:12, NIV).
3. “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people’” (II Corinthians 6:14-16, NIV).
4. “A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord” (I Corinthians 7:39, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. “Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days” (Ephesians 5:16, NLT).