

CrossRoads Community Church
Sermon Summary Sheet, Week of December 20, 2020
“Christmas is Coming”
Part 4: Coming in Wisdom, Ephesians 5: 15-21

By saying “Christmas is Coming” in our context for this sermon series, we don’t mean let’s get excited about the approaching event (although December 25th is fast upon us), but OUR APPROACH TO THE EVENT, i.e., how we live in light of Jesus’ coming to this earth.

TODAY’S TRUTH Our celebration of the birth of Jesus should be with the understanding God’s will and in a spirit of worship and Christian fellowship.

REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK:

Coming in Light – Ephesians 5:8-14
Acting with the Attributes of Light
Approving what is Acceptable to the Lord
Awaking and Rising for the Light

1. PAYING ATTENTION TO YOUR S.H.A.P.E.

Ephesians 5:15 “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,”

- *Deepen Our Traits – 1 Timothy 4: 12-16, James 1:5*
- *Discern the Time – Luke 12:56, Luke 24:25-26*

YOUR S.H.A.P.E

- *Spiritual Gift – Giving, Mercy, Serving, Leading, Exhorting, Prophecy, Teaching (Rm.12:6-8)*
- *Heart*
- *Abilities*
- *Personality*
- *Experiences*

2. PRIORITIZING THE SPIRIT

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

- *Guard Against the World – 1 John 2: 15-16*
- *Guided by the Word – Colossians 3:16*

3. PARTNERING WITH THE SAINTS

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

- *Speaking, Sharing – Hebrews 10: 24-25*
- *Singing – Psalm 100*
- *Submitting – Philippians 2:3*

CONCLUSION

“Coming in Wisdom” this Christmas means reflecting the Wise Men’s journey: following God according to His specific guidance, resisting the world’s influence, and rejoicing at the coming of our Savior!

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Open: *What does the phrase “Christmas is Coming” mean to you? What are some of your Christmas traditions that may not happen this year?*

- 1. Do you know your spiritual gift?** *Spiritual Gift – Giving, Mercy, Serving, Leading, Exhorting, Prophecy, Teaching (Rm.12:6-8)*
- 2. In terms of “redeeming the time,” what opportunities do you see before you RIGHT NOW that you feel God is leading you to take advantage of?**
- 3. What does it mean to you to “understand what the will of the Lord is”? In the context (Eph. 5:17), Paul says not to be “unwise,” which means “lacking perspective because of short-sightedness, i.e., lacking the over-all picture needed to act prudently.” How does this affect your view of wisdom, and following God’s will?**
- 4. In Eph. 5:18, Paul contrasts getting drunk versus being filled with the Spirit. In the context he is describing pagan religions whose followers would get drunk to induce ecstatic communion with their deities, as compared to the Christian’s dependence on the Holy Spirit to have true communion with God. What does it mean to you to be filled with the Spirit?**
- 5. Paul goes right from the command to be filled with the Spirit to describing how we’re to relate to one another. Compare his list to how we “do church” now. What do we need to improve upon?**
- 6. What does it mean to speak to one another in “psalms and hymns and spiritual songs”?**
- 7. Read Revelation 3: 7-8. PLEASE PRAY for our occupancy permit, that God would open the door to our church that no one can close. Pray also for our unity, our ministry, and your involvement.**