

CrossRoads Community Church
Sermon Summary Sheet, Week of January 10, 2021
"Tis the Season..."
"...To Redeem the Time," Ephesians 5: 8-21

To say "Tis the Season" almost always brings the follow-up phrase "to be jolly," or many other phrases that apply to the Christmas season. As we navigate this new year, what "season" are we in as a country, a church, a family, as individuals? The Apostle Paul, from a prison in Rome, tells the church at Ephesus to "walk carefully, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." How do we apply this truth to these days of crises we find ourselves living in?

TODAY'S TRUTH Many would like to think that turning the page on our calendars would bring an end to the trials that we have faced this past year. The past week reminds us that the trials do not end, but our response to those trials and sufferings are what counts.

The Bible calls us to walk carefully, with wisdom, making the most of the opportunity.

1. WALKING IN THE LIGHT

Ephesians 5:10 "...finding out what is acceptable to the Lord."

- ***Reflect the Lord– 1 Corinthians 15:49***
- ***Reveal what is of the Lord –Psalm 92:1, 4, 12-15***

2. WALKING WITH LEARNING

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

- ***Learn His Word– Psalm 119: 15-16***
- ***Learn His Will– 1 Peter 2:15***

3. WALKING UNDER HIS LORDSHIP

Ephesians 5:18,20 "And do not be drunk with wine, which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,...giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

- ***God Controlled– Romans 14: 7-9***
- ***Grateful Continually–1 Thessalonians 5:18***

CONCLUSION

"Tis the Season" (Redeem the Time to:)

- ***Social (Media) Distance***
- ***Seek the Messiah for Deliverance***
- ***Surrender as the Master's Disciples***

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Open: How well do you manage your time? Do you have a specific “planning method” to help you through your days?

- 1. Without getting into a political argument, can you express how you feel about the events of this past week?**
- 2. How does it impact you to know that Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians from prison? How much did he mention the Romans (those who held him captive)?**
- 3. Describe wisdom in your own words. How do you grow in understanding?**
- 4. Can we really know what the will of the Lord is?**
- 5. What does it mean to you to live a God-controlled life? How does that impact how you respond to the events we’re facing as a society right now?**
- 6. Share what you’re grateful for right now. How do you express gratitude on a regular basis?**
- 7. Can you “social distance” yourself from social media (or the general media for that matter) if it is causing you to stumble? What does it mean to you to surrender as the Master’s disciple? Is “making disciples” a priority in how you redeem your time?**
- 8. Read Revelation 3: 7-8 again. 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.**