Walking in the Light and Wisdom
Ephesians 5:8-20

- We are looking at the section Paul calls walking worthy.
- We have looked at walking in unity, walking in love and today we look at walking in the light and wisdom.
- Let's read verses 8-20 to get our bearings and then we will come back and walk through it.

Vs. 8 – “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light…”

- Throughout the letter of Ephesians Paul compares the old life before Christ with the new life in Christ.
- Here Paul reminds us that the life before Christ was a life of darkness.
- We were in the dark.

Recently we got another dog, a puppy, it’s another lab. We wanted to get Pepper a friend to play with and so we found one for a great deal and picked her out of a litter and brought her home. It’s like having another child. We get up every two hours to take her outside to relieve herself. We have this little stash of stuff that we take out when we go. First we get her on the leash, then we unlock the dead bolt and then we take a flashlight. Why the leash and flashlight, because where I live there are coyote’s? My older dog has already been attacked a few times and a lot more recently. I am sure it’s because they are looking to get the little one and they will come right up to our front porch. So we keep her on a short leash. We have the flashlight for a few reasons, the coyote’s and so that I can look around at my surroundings to see what’s out there. But also to keep myself from stepping on any land mines that have already been delivered during the night.

- You see when you’re in the dark it’s dangerous.
- And that’s what Paul compares our life to prior to Christ.

“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’” John 8:12 (NKJV)
• He came to bring light into our darkness and even to deliver us from the darkness.

“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love…” Colossians 1:13 (NKJV)

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light… 1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

• We were once in darkness stumbling around trying to figure out life, but now that the Lord is in our lives and we are walking in the light.
• And so the reminder, the exhortation.
• You are light in the Lord. Walk as children of the light.
• Notice what that light looks like…

Vs. 9 – “…(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth)…”

1. Walking the light is the life of fruitfulness.

• The fruit of goodness, righteousness, and truth.
• Just like sun causes a plant to bloom or bear fruit, as we walk in the light of the Son we will bloom and bear fruit.
• It’s the heart of God that we bear fruit. He wants for us to be live fruitful lives.

“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” John 15:8 (NKJV)

• Notice, He wants us to bear much fruit, not a little, but a lot.
• And when we do the world can look in and see that we are His disciples.
• Fruit is how we know we are His. That’s why it’s good to do a fruit inspection once in a while. Open up the door to the pantry of your life and see if there is fruit present.
• John goes on and reminds us how we can have a fruitful life.
“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ‘I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.’” John 15:4-5 (NKJV)

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” John 15:7 (NKJV)

- Its natural byproduct of hanging out with Jesus. The word abide…

Abide: Greek: to continue, to tarry, to persevere, to stay close too.

- Simply put we need to be clingy, not with one another but with our Father. Get clingy with the Lord and when you do you’re going to bear fruit, there is no other way.
- A branch cannot bear fruit on it’s own it must stay connected to the tree to do so.
- That’s where all the nourishment and life comes from.
- What’s the fruit you might ask?

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV)

- That’s what He wants to bring forth into our lives and it’s all connected to an abiding relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Let’s read on. Notice, when you and I live in the light not everyone is going to dig it.

Vs. 10-12 – “…finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.”

2. Walking in the light will expose darkness.
• Now some could look at verse 11 and think, woohoo let’s do it, let’s expose the darkness, let’s call people out on their sin, let’s do some bible thumping, some sin sniffing.
• Let me remind you of what chapter 4:15 tells us…

“…but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head…” Ephesians 4:15 (NKJV)

• Whenever we speak to those outside of Christ or those who are part of the body of Christ, we always need to speak the truth in love.
• Part of loving is knowing when to speak the truth and how to speak the truth, when to share the light and when to shine the light.
• I am not saying that you won’t speak, but let your actions speak first and foremost so that it can build a platform for when you do speak.
• That’s being light in a dark place. That’s being the light that exposes the darkness. Find ways to bring the presence of God into the places you visit daily and it will bring light into a dark place.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)

• If you are not thinking this way, Paul has a word for you. Notice…

Vs. 13-14 - “But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: ‘Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.’”

3. Walking in the light is a life that is awake.

• Now remember Paul is talking to the church here, so when he says, “wake up” it’s to the church. When he say’s, “arise from the dead” it’s for the church.
• Even though they were born again they had fallen asleep in Christ and nobody asleep spiritually is going to walk in abundant life. Nobody asleep spiritually is going to be making a difference for Christ.
• Listen to what Paul spoke to the Church of Rome.
“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.” Romans 13:11-14 (NKJV)

- Our salvation is nearer than when we believed. Our time on earth is ticking away and soon we are getting out of here. So put on the Lord Jesus and let’s start living for Christ.
- For those of you that have lost the light, lost the power, pull out the spiritual jumper cables and get fired up again.

Many of you know I have an old Volkswagen ragtop, a 58 ragtop. I got it out the other day and washed it. Afterwards I usually take it for a spin. It was my day off and the weather was great outside, only one problem, it had not been out of the garage for a while, even a couple of months. So when I went to start it nothing would turn over, no fire under the hood, the battery was dead. It had been sleeping too long and that new battery now needed a charge. My mother in law came out with her triple deluxe batter charger with a radio and air compressor and we hooked it up, what was dead had now come alive.

- Some of us here today remember walking in the light, we remember what was once there, we just need to get hooked up again and get a charged up again.
- We already have a new battery, that’s our new nature. We just need to re-connect with Jesus and let Him give us a charge.
- Paul goes on and reminds us of another benefit of walking in the light. Notice…

Vs. 15-17 – “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

4. Walking in the light is a life of wisdom.
• It’s one of the byproducts of walking in the light…

“For the lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly…” Proverbs 2:6-7 (NKJV)

• He stores up wisdom for those who walking with him, it’s waiting for us, but won’t come to us unless we are walking in the light.
• It’s a wisdom that will discern the will of god, verse 17.
• It’s also a wisdom that will help us redeem the time, verse 16.
• Realizing that the day is evil and we don’t want to waste it on living in sin but instead being salt.
• Not on loose living but living in the light.

“The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.” Romans 13:12 (NKJV)

• Notice Paul will remind us of the benefit of living in the light…

Vs. 18 – “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit…”

5. Walking in the light is a life of power.

• When we walk in the light we not only are given wisdom, but we are also given power, the power of the Holy Spirit.
• It’s just as Jesus gave to the disciples in the early church, a dynamite power.

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

• A power that is above and beyond any earthly power.
• Listen to what Paul calls the power of God….

“Now to Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us…” Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)
• It’s above all.
• Now notice that Paul reminds us not to be drunk with wine and in the same verse he says but be filled with the Spirit.
• Not sure if there was an issue in the church of Ephesus, but whatever was going on Paul reminded them that being filled with the Spirit was the better option.
• The world often chooses the alcohol to calm them down or to boost them up.
• But Paul reminds the church it’s the Holy Spirit that gives us the boost that we need. It’s the Holy Spirit who calms the fear that is often in me. It’s the Holy Spirit that empowers me to live effectively.


• Notice what he finishes with here…

Vs. 19-20 – “…speaking 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 to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ…”

6. Walking in the light is a life of Praise.

• When we are walking in the light, we will always produce a heart of worship in our hearts.
• The more I walk with Him the more I want to praise Him.
• It goes hand in hand…

It’s in worship that I take my eyes off my concerns and me and put my eyes on Him, on His kingdom, His power, His hand of grace. And it doesn’t take long before my heart is no longer complaining, no longer struggling, but instead I am making melody in my heart to the Lord.

• This is why Paul links praise with gratefulness. Notice verse 19-20, “…speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord, giving thanks
always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ…”

• Praise is the cure for a critical spirit, for a heart that is ungrateful.
• Wildwood, let’s walk in the light and in doing so we will walk in fruitfulness, exposing darkness, we will be alert and awake, we will walk in wisdom, power and praise.

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light…” 1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)