

Eph. 5:15-21 - Walking, Thinking & Singing - A 7 Point Sermon

Intro - The title for today's message is - "*Walking, Thinking & Singing - A 7 Point Sermon.*" That title is intended to make you think - (how do Walking, Thinking & Singing equal 7?) I do realize that those 3 do not add up to 7 but those 3 are part of 7. Our seven verses today contain seven directives for living out a Christian life. The second half of Ephesians is *Practical Christianity 101*. It is the application of our salvation. If you like lists, then our text will give you a list of 7 things to work on (Phil. 2:12b). We have heard of *Snow White and 7 Dwarfs*, well this is *Living Right with 7 Supports*. The 7 Dwarfs were busy at their work while singing a song and these 7 Supports will aid us in our Christian work and give us a song. Since the sermon is a 7-point sermon I will try to make the 7 supports 7 shorts.

1. **WALKING** - Eph. 5:15
 - a. "*Walking*" has been a common theme in this application section of Ephesians
 - b. Walk - worthy ^(4:1) not a Gentiles ^(4:17) in love ^(5:1-2) in light ^(5:8) ...now wisely ^{5:15}
 - i. The course of a Christian life is to be characterized by a: Worthy walk, a different walk, a loving walk, a walk in the light...and now...a wise walk.
 - c. Wisdom is summed up as fearing God & believing God
 - i. Prov. 1:7 Ps. 14:1 / Rom. 3:18 Rom. 1:21-22
 - ii. Luke 24:25 unbelief is practical atheism...not believing God or His word
 - iii. A wise walk is a walk that fears God and believes God. (Ps. 1:1-2)
 - d. We are to be CAREFUL how we walk.
 - i. Trip to the SBC - I got us on the wrong road by not paying attention.
 - ii. We must be careful how we walk lest we stumble or take the wrong path.
2. **TIMING** - Eph. 5:16
 - a. Part of a wise walk is making wise use of our time.
 - i. John 9:4 Prov. 10:5
 - ii. We only have a limited amount of time; it is foolish to squander it
 - b. Time = season (the "times" we are living in) think - Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter
 - i. There are seasons in life we need to take advantage of - Eccles. 12:1
 - ii. Opportunities are lost when the seasons pass. ("strike while the iron is hot")
 - c. Because the days are evil, we need to diligently use our time wisely
 - i. 1 Cor. 7:29-31 (1 Chron. 12:32)
 - ii. Understanding our times will help give us a sense of urgency
 - d. John Wesley was asked, "*If you knew Jesus was coming back next week what would you do?*" His answer. "*What I am doing.*"
 - i. If you knew you only had a year left to live...would it change your priorities and how you live and spend your time? Psalm. 90:12
3. **THINKING** - Eph. 5:17
 - a. Our minds are to be thinking on what pleases the Lord.
 - b. We are to be praying for God's will ^{Matt. 6:10} and learning God's will ^{Eph. 5:17}.
 - c. God's word is God's will.

- d. Here are 4 specifics - 1 Thess. 4:3 - being sanctified & sexually pure is God's will
 - i. 1 Thess. 5:18 - It is God's will for you to be thankful in everything.
 - ii. 1 Peter 2:15 - ...to do right in order to silence unbelievers. (Christian reputation)
 - iii. 1 Peter 4:19 - It is God's will that you suffer.
- e. There is more to God's will that you should learn...but start with these.
 - i. Acts 15:28-29 (2 Peter 1:5-8 is a list of things to add to your faith)
- 4. **FILLING** - Eph. 5:18
 - a. All of us are "under the influence." Who or what influences you?
 - b. A drunk is under the influence of spirits. (drink makes him drunk)
 - c. A Christian should be under the influence of The Spirit (the Spirit makes us spiritual)
 - i. How can windsurfers fly above Lake Hefner when I'm stuck on ground?
 - 1. Their sail is up and filled with a wind I am not harnessing.
 - d. We may come back and devote a sermon to the "filling of the Spirit."
- 5. **SINGING** - Eph. 5:19
 - a. Christian conversation should be elevated above the mundane.
 - i. Col. 4:6 The Christian should talk about more than just the trivial.
 - 1. We should discuss our doctrines...contained in song.
 - ii. The musical & poetic elements of our faith should season our conversation.
 - b. *Psalms* - discuss a Psalm with someone (Wednesday night - Ps 38-39 - David's sickness)
 - c. *Hymns* - read and share a hymn.
 - i. We have old hymnals you could take home and use as a devotional
 - ii. New England Primer - Dr. Watts Cradle Hymn (another one on bulletin tear off)
 - d. *Spiritual songs*
 - i. Choruses 5:14
 - e. Christians are a singing and proclaiming people.
 - i. If you can't sing them then speak them - 5:19 "Speak...singing"
 - ii. We are to speak and sing to each other the contents of our faith.
 - f. The melody in our heart is sacrifice of praise to our God - Heb. 13:15
- 6. **THANKING** - Eph. 5:20
 - a. Believers and unbelievers alike have much to be thankful for...especially believers
 - i. Rom. 1:21 - Ungrateful & unbelief go hand in hand
 - b. It is God's will that we are thankful in ALL things - 1 Thess. 5:18
 - c. Thanks are offered to God the Father through the mediation of God the Son.
 - d. Trinitarian thanks to The Father, through The Son, by The Spirit ***for all things.***
- 7. **SUBMITTING** - Eph. 5:21
 - a. The fear of Christ should compel us to serve others & consider others as more important than ourselves. Phil 2:3 (being scared of God will motivate you to serve others)
 - b. Put yourself last. "She is more important than me." "He is more important than me." "They are more..."
 - i. Mark 9:35 Mark 10:44-45
 - ii. Be a *Smitty* and submit to one another in the fear of Christ.
 - c. *Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs* -vs- *Living Right with these Seven Supports* (shorts)
 - i. Walky...Timey...Thinky...Filly...Singy...Thanky...&...Smitty
 - ii. They had a working song, and we have a working hymn
 - iii. "To the Work!" (written by a blind hymnwriter who made good use of her time)