



**Week Ten: Live Very Carefully**  
Turning from Darkness to Living in the Light

**Fallen Condition Focus:**

\* We let the evil around us influence how we live and how we make decisions. We want to live with morals and uprightness, but we look to what others are doing or what the latest book says.

**Big Idea:**

\* A life worthy of Christ is one in which the Holy Spirit is the dominant influence in a believer's life that leads him or her in the way to careful living and good decisions.

**Introduction:**

- \* When Michigan State students approach making a decision about career, dating, or a big purchase, what criteria do they use? What do they bring to the decision-making process?
- \* Why do you think students have this foundation for their decision making?
- \* What's good or bad about this foundation?
- \* Think to yourself about the criteria that are a part of your foundation.

**The Biblical Text: Ephesians 5:15-21**

**Close attention to personal living (read verses 15-17)**

*Observation:*

\* Paul describes careful living in verses 15-17. How does he describe it?

*Interpretation:*

- \* Making the most of every opportunity means making the best use of one's time. Why do you think Paul describes wise living in this way?
- \* Why do you think Paul contrasts understanding the Lord's will with foolishness?

*Application:*

\* For you personally, how would you describe the level of attention given to (1) your use of time and (2) your understanding of God's will? How could these be lived out in a more careful manner?

**Close attention to Spirit-filled living (read verses 18-21)**

*Observation:*

\* In last semester's study of 1 Corinthians 3, we found that every believer in Christ has the Holy Spirit and that being filled with the Spirit means being influenced, directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit. According to verses 18-21, what are some of the results of being filled with the Spirit?

*Interpretation:*

- \* How is being drunk a fitting contrast to being filled with the Spirit?
- \* How would the decision-making process differ between someone who is drunk with alcohol and someone who is filled with the Spirit?
- \* What are the connections between being filled with the Spirit and living very carefully?

*Application:*

- \* Why would you want the influence of the Holy Spirit instead of the influence of drunkenness?
- \* When you read the results of being filled with the Spirit in these verses, how does this line up with your life?

## C o n t i n u e d ...

### **Conclusion:**

\* Apart from God and His Word, what would you say tends to be the dominating influence in your life that guides how you live life and make decisions? (possible examples: friends, boy/girlfriend, parents, money, respect, accomplishment, recognition, comfort, ease) Why?

\* According to this passage, what is necessary for careful living?

\* What makes you resist Christ through the Holy Spirit being the primary influence in decision-making?

\* How might your approach to decision-making and time use change if you embraced and believed this passage?

\*\*\* Because of Christ, the Holy Spirit is available to be the dominating influence in your life. Take a moment right now in silence before God to dethrone the other influences, to thank Christ for His work, and to call on God to direct and empower you with His Spirit.

### **Summary:**

Because of Christ's work at the cross and in our lives, we have the ability to live a life worthy of Him – a life that is lived very carefully. Careful living calls for good decision-making. The discernment for careful living and good decision-making comes from the wise use of time, understanding the Lord's will, and being filled with the Spirit. Even though we resist sometimes, God eagerly and graciously desires to come along side you in careful living and good decision-making.