

# BATTLE READY

A Study in the Book of Ephesians

**Living Carefully**

*Ephesians 5*



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## A Study in the Book of Ephesians

**Ephesians 5:15-18 (NIV)** <sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

# BATTLE READY

## A Study in the Book of Ephesians

### I. Careful living means living wisely v.15

Ephesians 5:15 (NIV) <sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise,

*Wisdom is the ability to see things as God sees them, and act accordingly.*

The College Press NIV Commentary

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## A Study in the Book of Ephesians

### I. Careful living means living wisely v.15

A. Wise living has the idea of living humbly so as not to stumble.

**James 3:13-17 (NIV)** <sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. <sup>15</sup> Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. <sup>16</sup>

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### I. Careful living means living wisely v.15

A. Wise living has the idea of living humbly so as not to stumble.

For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

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### I. Careful living means living wisely v.15

A. Wise living has the idea of living humbly so as not to stumble.

**Proverbs 16:18 (NIV)** <sup>18</sup> Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

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### I. Careful living means living wisely v.15

A. Wise living has the idea of living humbly so as not to stumble.

**James 4:8 (NIV)** <sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

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### I. Careful living means living wisely v.15

A. Wise living has the idea of living humbly so as not to stumble.

*Peace is the opposite of the rivalry, instability, and division brought by envy and ambition.*

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### I. Careful living means living wisely v.15

A. Wise living has the idea of living humbly so as not to stumble.

*True wisdom can be measured by the depth of a person's character. Just as you can identify a tree by the type of fruit it produces, you can evaluate your wisdom by the way you act.*

Life Application Bible

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## A Study in the Book of Ephesians

### I. Careful living means living wisely v.15

A. Wise living has the idea of living humbly so as not to stumble.

Proverbs 11:2 (NIV) <sup>2</sup> When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

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## A Study in the Book of Ephesians

### I. Careful living means living wisely v.15

B. Wise living has the idea of following a guide so as not to end up suffering on some detour.

**Hebrews 2:1 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup> We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

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## A Study in the Book of Ephesians

### I. Careful living means living wisely v.15

B. Wise living has the idea of following a guide so as not to end up suffering on some detour.

**Psalm 10:4 (NIV)** <sup>4</sup> In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

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### I. Careful living means living wisely v.15

B. Wise living has the idea of following a guide so as not to end up suffering on some detour.

**Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)** <sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

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### I. Careful living means living wisely v.15

C. Wisely living carefully considers the foundation he is building upon.

**1 Cor. 3:10-11 (NIV)** ... But each one should be careful how he builds. [11] For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

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### II. Careful living means making the most of every opportunity. v.16

Ephesians 5:16 (NIV) <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

“redeeming the time,”

“*buying up for yourselves*” all you can

“*When the opportunity is ripe, seize it!*”

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**II. Careful living means making the most of every opportunity. v.16**

**A. Opportunity living has the idea of obedience so as not to have to waste time correcting the wrong.**

"God put me on earth to do so many things, and I am so far behind, that I am never going to die."



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**II. Careful living means making the most of every opportunity. v.16**

**B. Opportunity living has the idea of avoiding unnecessary arguments.**

**Titus 3:8-9 (NIV) <sup>8</sup>** This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. <sup>9</sup> But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.

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**II. Careful living means making the most of every opportunity. v.16**

**C. Opportunity living has the idea of having a sense of urgency.**

***The emphasis of the “evil” days is not so much on moral degeneracy, as on the coming perils of persecution.***

**The College Press NIV Commentary**

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**II. Careful living means making the most of every opportunity. v.16**

**C. Opportunity living has the idea of having a sense of urgency.**

**Esther 4:14 (NIV) <sup>14</sup>** For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

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**III. Careful living means an understanding of God's will and a desire to live it. vs. 17,18**

**Ephesians 5:17-18 (NIV)** <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

<sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

**Luke 21:34 (NIV)** "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation (*self-indulgence*), drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.

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<sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

**Matthew 5:6 (NIV)** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

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**<sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.**

***“The problem is not to persuade God to fill us, but to want God sufficiently to permit Him to do so.”***

**A.W. Tozer**

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### III. Careful living means an understanding of God's will and a desire to live it. vs. 17,18

Feb 27<sup>th</sup> Devotional , "Desire to be Filled"

*"Are you sure that you want to be possessed by spirit other than your own? even though that spirit be the pure Spirit of God? even though He be very gentle essence of the gentle Jesus? even though He be the sane and pure and free? even though He be wisdom personified, wisdom Himself, even though He has a healing, precious ointment to distill? even though He be loving as the heart of God? That Spirit, if He ever possesses you, will be the Lord of your Life!*

A.W.

Tozer

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### III. Careful living means an understanding of God's will and a desire to live it. vs. 17,18

**Ephes. 3:19 (NIV)** and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.



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