

INTRODUCTION

1. Eph. 5:1: Be ye followers (imitators) of God. We should imitate God because:
  1. We are his children: Dear children. Children often try to imitate the father.
2. What it mean to imitate God:
  1. It mean to do what God does.
  2. It means to do what God does because he does.
  3. It means to do what God does, because he does, and as he does it.
3. How we may become initators of God.
  1. Meditation: As we look upon the glory, the good of God, meditate upon these things we become in mind and action like God.
  2. Worship: We all imitate consciously or unconsciously what we adore, admire, worship. By nature we are like God: God is a spirit; we are spiritual beings. God is great and powerful. We are small: The smallest pool may bear a perfect image of the sun.
  3. Obedient action: We must be obedient to God's will. We must have the habit of love and good deeds if we would have the character that such deeds beget
4. Eph 5:2: Walk in love. Consider the pattern of such love:
  1. "As Christ also hath loved us." "And hath given himself for us." Eph. 5:2
  2. Jesus went about every day doing good. Acts 10:38

THE LESSON TEXT Ephesians 5:3-16 Sectionized we have:

1. Ephesians 5:3-7: Covetousness among the worst of human crimes. There are three sins among which covetousness is placed. They are:
  1. Fornication and all uncleanness: unrestrained unbridled licentiousness. Being lewd, loose, lax.
  2. Covetousness: Greed, unnatural craving for more, dissatisfaction with what was enough. Avaricious, rapacious, grasping. Schemes by which one can get that which belongs to another.
  3. Foolish talking: Frivolous, light, bantering, seasoned with obscene allusions. Profanity, untruthfulness from which a pure mind would recoil.
    - (1) This kind of speech not convenient. Eph. 5:4 WHY?
      - A. They are not convenient in themselves for the character of impropriety attaches to them.
      - B. They are not convenient in the speakers who incur a still deeper reproach, and prepare themselves for a graver judgment.
      - C. They are not convenient for the hearers, who, though they may be amused for a moment are not profited, but rather debased by such conversation.
    - (2) The right use of the tongue: "Giving of thanks."
  4. Whoremonger: Revolting indecency, unchaste, impure in life in act or thought.
    - (1) Rev. 22:15: For without are dogs and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, Gal. 5:19-21 and idolaters (covetous) and whosever loveth and maketh a lie.
2. Ephesians 5:8-10: The Christian Life. Three things involved:
  1. Transformation: The true Christian is one whose life, whose life, has been changed from darkness to light. You were darkness, but now you are light. V.8
  2. Obligation:
    1. "Walk in love." "As Christ hath also loved us." Eph. 5:2
    2. "Walk as children of light." Eph. 5:8; 1 John 1:7. See Luke 16:8
    - 3 We are to walk as PLEASING TO GOD, not to please ourselves.
  3. Demonstration: The Christian can and must develop his life in the FRUIT OF LIGHT. What is fruit of light?:
    1. All goodness.
    2. Righteousness. Do that which is right.
    3. Truth. Truth is a direct emanation of light. See Galatians 5:22,23. A demonstration in our lives of that which is good, that which is right, that which is true.

B-R-2799



JESS H. HALL, MINISTER

DEARBORN VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST  
17200 West Outer Drive  
DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

PHONES:  
Residence 563-4729  
Church CR. 8-8120

April 6, 1964

Dear Brethren,

The enclosed cards will give you complete information concerning our special meeting with brother L. R. Wilson preaching.

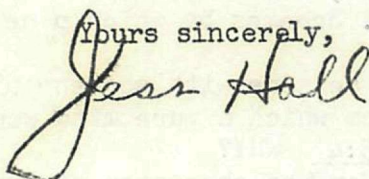
If it is possible for you to do so, we would be pleased if you would announce our meeting from your pulpit, in your church bulletin, or in the way that you think to be best in keeping with your regular program of work.

We know that every working congregation has a very heavy schedule throughout the week, but we hope that you will find it possible to hear Brother Wilson during this special meeting.

It is our prayer that your work continues to prosper and grow in a way that is pleasing to the Lord.

With every good wish to you, I am

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jess Hall". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Yours sincerely,".



3. Ephesians 5:11-14: ONE race making up TWO WORLDS. "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. Eph. 5:11
  1. The world of wicked men.
    - (1) Men of the world are all here indicated and their works described as "unfruitful works of darkness." V. 11
  2. The world of Christians. The work this world has to do with the other world:
    - (1) Separation: "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness." V. 11
    - (2) Reprehension: "But rather reprove them." How reprove them:
      - A. Reprove them by lip: Conversation, Speech.
      - b. Reprove them by life: The life should stand in such grand contrast to all that is sinful that it may be a standing rebuke.
    - (3) Illumination: "Awake thou that sleepest." Thunder in the ear of the sleeper, speak life into the heart of the dead: "Christ shall give thee light." V. 14
4. Ephesians 5:15, 16: To correctly administer reproof and make it count two things are necessary:
  1. Walk circumspectly. Eph. 5:15
    1. To walk circumspectly we must have knowledge of the true way lest we miss the way. Jer. 6:16; "Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. BUT THEY SAID, We will not walk therein."
 

Matt. 7:14; "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."
    2. To walk circumspectly, we must keep in mind, in view, the end of our walk: 1 Peter 1:9, "Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls."
  2. To redeem the time. Two things involved: Eph. 5:16
    1. Time: All time is of very high value. Time may be of increasing value.
    2. Question: "What are you doing?" "Just killing time," comes back the answer.
      - (1) Time is not our own property. No one has a right to kill time. People who kill time destroy one of the best talents God has given them.
    2. Planning: Life should be well-planned. Make your plan and then work your plan.
  3. Redeeming the time. Why redeem the time? Because the days are evil. Why are the days evil? Because:
    - (1) Because we have lost so much time already. 1 Peter 4:3
    - (2) Because so few days are left. James 4:14
    - (3) Because we must give account in the judgment of our time and opportunities.



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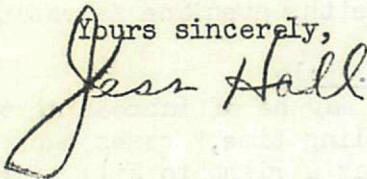
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