



Growth Group Questions
November 16, 2025
“Ordinary Time”

CONTEXT

The letter of Ephesians, along with Colossians, Philippians and Philemon, is considered one of the “prison epistles” written when Paul was likely under house arrest in Rome. Ephesus was a major port city in Asia Minor and was known for its commerce and multicultural population. It was best known for being the home of the Temple of Artemis—one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

The Ephesians culture was not only shaped by the worship of Artemis, but also by the cult of Bacchus which taught that communion with the gods was achieved through drunkenness. Paul contrasts this with the Christian life by insisting that communion with God is marked not by losing control, but by surrendering control to the Holy Spirit.

Paul begins this section of Scripture by saying we need to be careful about how we live. Our lives are to be marked by wisdom because our surrounding culture will always be a distraction from living how God wants us to live. For Paul, wisdom is not just an intellectual exercise, but it is also a moral and spiritual alertness. Our actions must be informed by God’s character and design.

Paul continues by encouraging the Ephesians to make the most of their time. The word used here has to do with redeeming or buying back time. It is easy to lose our focus and drift away from the ways in which God wants us to live. In 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 Paul writes, “*Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.*”

As Paul concludes he talks about a Spirit-filled life of worship, prayer and gratitude. When worship becomes a part of our life, ordinary moments get transformed. As we live out a life marked by gratitude, we discover the joy and peace that God wants to offer us. The Holy Spirit fills us and shapes our lives and empowers us to obey and do God’s will. Ordinary moments can become extraordinary moments when God is involved.

SCRIPTURE and QUOTES

Ephesians 5:15-20

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 10:16

¹⁶ “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

John 6:8-13

⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, ⁹ “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

¹⁰ Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

John 6:25-27

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

John 6:35

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Jonathan Edwards, *The 70 Resolutions of Jonathan Edwards*

"Resolved...never to lose one moment of time; but improve it in the most profitable way I possibly can".

QUESTIONS

1. In Ephesians 5:15, the Apostle Paul says we are to live wisely. What is wisdom and how do we become wise?
2. Pastor Paul said that “God’s wisdom is the ultimate guide rail for our lives.” How does God’s wisdom differ from worldly wisdom?

3. What Bible verses speak to us about living according to Godly wisdom?
4. What do you think it looks like to live wisely?
5. In Ephesians 5:16, the Apostle Paul says we are to “make the most of every opportunity.” What does that mean to you?
6. What Bible verses help us to understand how God wants us to use our time?
7. What are some common time wasters that can prevent us from using our time in the way that the Apostle Paul tells us it should be used?
8. What are some ways in which we can grow in our ability to make every moment count?
9. Pastor Paul said that making the most of our time is taking whatever we have and giving it to Jesus. What does that mean to you?

PASTOR PAUL’S SERMON QUESTIONS

1. Where am I being called to “make the most of the time” that is in front of me?
2. What is an “ordinary” *five loaves and two fish gift* you can offer to Jesus this week?