

**GOSPEL** of *Grace*  
FELLOWSHIP

**Ephesians 5:14-16**

**Wake Up, Be Wise and  
Redeem the Time**

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**Wake Up and Rise Up**

**Ephesians 5:14 (NASB)**  
For this reason it says, “**Awake, sleeper,** And **arise** from the dead, And Christ will shine on you.”

- There are two imperatives: “Wake up” and “Stand up”
- This is a call for Christians to awake from spiritual lethargy
- The sleepers are those who live in the “unfruitful works of darkness” (vs 11)

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**Walk in God’s Wisdom**

**Ephesians 5:15 (HCSB)**  
Pay **careful attention**, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—

- Imperative: Watch Out! Begins the sentence in Greek
- We need focused moral attention
- This is the first of three “not...but” contrasts in the Greek

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**Three Contrastive Exhortations  
Ephesians 5:15-18**

- Not Unwise      **But Wise**
- Not Foolish      **But Comprehending**
- Not Drunk      **But Filled With the Spirit**

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**Utilize the Time Wisely**

**Ephesians 5:16 (NKJV)**  
**redeeming the time**, because the days are evil.

- Time here is qualitative time—the age we live in between the two advents of Christ
- “Redeeming” here means taking advantage of opportunities
- We need to know why we are alive on the earth during this age (Romans 13:11)

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**Implications and Applications**

- Sons of light must stay awake and ready for action
- Do not let the world define wisdom
- To walk in true wisdom is to take advantage of the days God gives us

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## Be Awake and Sober

### 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 (ESV)

But you are **not in darkness, brothers**, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all **children of light, children of the day**. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

- There is a strong contrast between “day people” and “night people”

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6

## The World’s “Wisdom” Is Folly

### 1 Corinthians 3:18-20 (ESV)

Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For **the wisdom of this world is folly with God**. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”

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7

## Live Wisely in This Age

### Colossians 4:5 (ESV)

Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the **best use of the time**.

- This uses the same “redeeming the time” terminology in the Greek
- “Best use” is grounded in God’s priorities which are gospel-centric
- If we have an unbiblical eschatology we will also have bad priorities for our time

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8