

A WORTHWHILE WALK

Colossians 4:5

We need to walk as witnesses in order to have a worthwhile year.

I. THE OBSERVERS: Outsiders

A. THEIR DISTINCTION

1. Not one of us: Different
2. Unbelievers: Without the Lord

B. THEIR DISTRUST

1. They do not know or understand our beliefs
2. They think we are weird!

C. THEIR DISCOVERY

1. They are watching us
2. They are outside looking in
3. What do they see?

II. THE ORDER: Conduct your yourselves with wisdom

A. A CAREFUL WALK

1. Step Carefully
2. Behaving Wisely - See I Peter 2:11-12
 - a. "The reputation of the gospel depends upon the conduct of its devotees" [William Hendriksen]
 - b. If people see a type of life superior to their own, they will tend to inquire about its source
3. Avoiding Sin
 - a. Sin will cause others to see hypocrisy and turn away from God
 - b. "Careless behavior would impress upon the unbelievers that we do not ourselves believe the tremendous truths which we would press upon them." [Harry Ironside]

B. A COMPREHENDING WALK

1. To walk wisely is to understand the outsider
 - a. Seek to understand their different qualities, concerns, conditions, capabilities
 - b. Being careful not to needlessly offend them
 - c. Knowing when to back off - See Matt. 7:6 and 10:16

Over please >

2.

2. Adapt the message to the people

- a. This does not mean that you change the content of the message but just the way that you communicate it.
- b. Exps: Paul in Athens (Acts 17:22-31) compared to Paul in Corinth (I Cor. 9:19-23)

C. A CORRECT WALK

1. "Toward them" > We are not to avoid them - Gal. 6:10
2. "Surrounding them"

D. A CONSPICUOUS WALK

1. If we are walking wisely we are not hiding in the shadows - Matt. 5:14-16
2. Remember the context and conditions when this was written ...
 - The only way they could know of Christianity was by seeing Christians in action.
3. People need to see Christianity demonstrated
 - The outsiders are watching to see a conspicuous, consistent demonstration of Christianity.

III. **THE OBJECTIVE**: "Making the most of the opportunity"

A. BE PRODUCTIVE WITH TIME

1. You buy up the opportunities
2. No wasting of time: You do what you can with what you have where you are

B. BE PURSUANT OF TIME

1. Chase it down > "Rescue it from loss" [Richard Sturz]
2. "Don't just set there and wait for an opportunity to fall into your lap ... go after it!" [William Hendriksen]

C. A PERSPECTIVE ON TIME

- Recognizing a strategic and opportune time

D. THE PRODUCT OF TIME

1. We make time our own
2. We redeem time when we carefully invest it in outsiders

CONCLUSION:

What kind of walk with you be taking this year?

- Will it be disappointing or delightful?

Have a worthwhile walk in 2017 by being a witness to unbelievers!

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