



## CELL GUIDE

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**TOPIC** Living in Evil End-Times

**SPEAKER** SP Daniel Foo

**THEME** The New Normal

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

We are living in the End-Times. The days are evil and will only grow more evil. Lawlessness will increase. There will be a rise in attacks on Christians and the Church. Apostasy, lies and deception will grow. Nations will rise up against nations. Natural calamities will abound. Covid-19 will not be going away anytime soon. How then should believers live? How will the Church thrive in such perilous times? The answer is found in our key text in Ephesians 5:15-21 – ***Redeem the time*** by walking wisely and worshipping whole-heartedly.

## REDEEMING THE TIME – 2 BROAD THEMES

### 1. Walk Wisely – Ephesians 5:15

See that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise. To walk wisely is:

- i. What we must do in response to what God has already done for us. We respond in *faith* to the *grace* that God shown us.
- ii. To heed the same call as:
  - (a) To walk worthy of our calling – Ephesians 4:1
  - (b) To walk in love – Ephesians 5:2
  - (c) To walk in the light – Ephesians 5:8-9
- iii. To walk circumspectly (i.e. carefully, thoughtfully, not compromising nor impulsive).
- iv. To redeem the time. Deal with our past mistakes and wrong-doing by confessing and keeping short accounts with God - 1 John 1:9; Psalm 32:1.
- v. To know the will of God. The will of God is:
  - (a) To save us all. Therefore let us share Christ - 2 Peter 3:9.
  - (b) For us to grow into Christlikeness – Romans 8:29.

- (c) For us to be a blessing to others – Ephesians 2:10.
- (d) To hear and answer us as we align to Him – 1 John 5:14-15
- (e) To deliver us from the wrath to come – 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9.

vi. To be filled with the Spirit. We will then overflow with love, hope and faith.

## 2. Worship Whole-heartedly – Ephesians 5:19-20

We do this by:

- i. Speaking to one another – we must gather as a community – Ephesians 5:19. Where two or three gather together in My name, I am there in the midst of them - Matthew 18:20.
- ii. We speak and sing psalms. Psalms are praise songs, the fruit of our lips confessing His name – Hebrews 13:15.
- iii. We speak and sing hymns. Hymns are testimony songs of our experiences with God and the unchanging attributes of God.
- iv. We speak and sing spiritual songs. Spiritual songs are spontaneous, and from our spirits that connect with the Spirit of God.
- v. We make melody in our hearts to the Lord. Is there a song playing in your hearts and minds to the Lord?
- vi. We will develop a spirit of gratefulness, giving thanks always for all things – Ephesians 5:20.
- vii. We will submit to one another in the fear of the Lord – Ephesians 5:21. In BBTC, we do this through our core values of Building & Bonding (B&B); Accountability & Covering (A&C); and Prayer & Communication (P&C).

## CONCLUSION

As we live now in times of increasing darkness, where people are bombarded by stressors and tribulations in our external environment beyond our control, we the Church of Jesus Christ can overcome and thrive as we learn to walk wisely and worship the Lord whole-heartedly. God promises in Psalm 16:11 that in His presence is fullness of joy, and at His right hand are pleasures forevermore. May we confess and experience this to be true in our lives, as we remain watchful and alert, awaiting the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our Saviour and King Jesus Christ.

# QUESTIONS

1. In the past year, share what troubled or weighed you down, distracting you from being alert and watchful of Christ's imminent return?

2. As believers, we are called to redeem the time because the days are evil. Share what struck you most about walking wisely and how you intend to do that in 2022.

3. In addition to walking wisely, believers can thrive in these last days by worshipping God whole-heartedly. Is there any area in your life where you are convicted to do this? Or how can you worship God whole-heartedly in the situation that continues to weigh you down?