

# **THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS**

## **9. Live as Children of Light**

*(Member's Notes)*



### **Introduction**

Often we hear the expression, 'Practice what you preach'. This is really what Paul is saying in his letter to the believers in Ephesus. In the first half of the book he tells us about the grace that God has lavished upon us in Christ, but then he goes on to say, "Now you need to put this into practice." In the passage we are going to look at today, we are being urged to follow the example of Jesus Christ. We are to live a life of love, live in the light and to live wisely.

### **Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5:1-20**

#### **1. Live a Life of Love v1-7**

- † The Apostle Paul is speaking about living a life of love. Whose example are we to follow, and what does this mean? V1-2
- † What are we called in verses 1 and 3? In view of this, what actions, thoughts and words are not fitting for us now? V3, 4
- † Why is it important to take these words seriously according to v5 and 6?
- † What we say is important! In v4 it mentions different kinds of speech that are out of place for a believer. What do you think you should do when others around you tell an unclean joke? Discuss. See v7.
- † In v5 it says that an impure or greedy person is an idolater. What does this mean?

#### **2. Live in the Light v8-14**

We have seen how we are to imitate God and live a life of love. Paul continues by saying that we are to live as children of light. Our God is described as love and light. See 1 John 1:5, 4:16

- † What is the evidence in a person's life if they are walking in the light? V9-10
- † What else does the light of God do in a person's life? V13-14

#### **3. Live Wisely v13-20**

- † How will we live if we are wise? V16, 17, 18.
- † Why do you think Paul goes on to say we are to speak and sing praise and thanksgiving in v19-20? How is this connected to what he has just been telling us? Also see 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- † Share one thing that has stood out to you in the study today. What is God saying to you? Share.

## **Conclusion**

The world around us is in spiritual darkness. Despite the fact that our technology is so advanced and knowledge has increased, mankind's moral standards have not changed! Man simply cannot change himself. However we have experienced God's grace and received his forgiveness, so now we are to walk in love and in the light. Nevertheless, we still live in this dark world, and so we need to walk carefully, knowing what God's will is. As we learn to give thanks, and sing praise, we will be lifted above the darkness and be empowered to live in victory. Amen!