

Majority Evil Days

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

Ephesians 5:15-17.

What Paul is commanding requires effort. According to Paul, each of their days – which aren't different from our own – were filled with more evil than good. The split wasn't 50-50. It was majority, something more like 90-10. Which means the good things to do were hard to find, and in order to find them, it required effort on one's part combined with a large dose of the knowledge and grace of God. Being foolish, then, according to Paul, is *not* understanding what the will of the Lord is and *not* making the best use of the time in days that are filled with more evil than good. So now we have one command that requires a lot of effort: Make the best use of time in days that are majority evil, which means finding and discovering the good in a day that is not immediately apparent.

Paul gives another command that requires effort: Understand what the will of the Lord is. In order to be able to do this, we have to know God. In order to buy a good gift for a friend, you must first know your friend, or at least talk to someone who knows your friend well enough to know what kind of gift your friend would like. In the same way we have to know God and this requires us learning about God from God, or, at the very least, learning about God from those who know God well enough to know what He likes. Just as Paul's first command, this command also requires effort.

Christianity is not an effortless endeavor. This isn't to say that we simply need to try harder to be Christians in order to be saved, because there is no amount of trying that will allow us to do this on our own. God is clearly the One who is in charge and gives us our abilities. If the days are majority evil, then when we do nothing, there is a high probability of us contributing to the majority. Instead, we're to make the best use of our time in days that are majority evil, doing the will of God and that which pleases God. This means learning about God from God and those who know God. This requires effort. **[DJR]**