

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA YOUNG PEOPLE

SPRING PURSUIT

BEING WATCHFUL IN LIFE AND FAITHFUL IN SERVICE

Session Four —Ministry Reading

Being Watchful for His Return

Verses for Pray-Reading:

Eph. 5:14-16 Therefore He says, Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Look therefore carefully how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Ministry Reading:

We cannot borrow oil from others, whether they are our parents, brothers, sisters, or close relatives. Our spiritual fullness requires that we pay the price. Pretending to be spiritual can get us by today, but it will not be sufficient for that day. Obtaining the Holy Spirit requires fellowshiping with the Lord and paying the price to pursue Him. No matter how long you stay with other spiritual ones, it will not help you. Do not think we can borrow oil from others. To borrow light, yes; but to borrow oil, no. (*Collected Works of Watchman Nee, The (Set 1) Vol. 15: Study on Matthew*, p. 329).

In Ephesians 5:16 Paul says, “redeeming the time”, because the days are evil.” To redeem the time is to seize every available opportunity. This is to be wise in our walk. In this evil age (Gal. 1:4, Gk.), every day is an evil day, full of pernicious things which destroy, injure, and spoil our time. If we do not seize every opportunity, our time will be wasted. Many evil things will come in to distract us and frustrate us. We may be distracted by telephone calls, letters, or visitors. We may be enjoying the presence of the Lord and suddenly be attacked through a negative telephone call. Because the days are evil, we must be on the alert to take advantage of every opportunity. (*Life-study of Ephesians*, pp. 433).

If a person is not saved, does not love the Lord, does not walk in the will of God, and does not bear fruit according to God's will, in God's eyes the time of his life has been wasted. A believer, however, can redeem the time by being “filled in spirit” (v. 18). When we walk according to the Spirit and fellowship with the Lord, we do not lose time; instead, we redeem it. (*Crucial Words of Leading in the Lord's Recovery, Book 4: The Increase and Spread of the Church*, p. 66).

Ephesians 5:19 also refers to “singing and psalming” to the Lord. Such singing and psalming are not only the overflow of being filled in spirit, but also the way to be filled in spirit. Whenever we are filled in our spirit unto all the fullness of God, the first thing we shall do is speak. Then we shall sing and psalm with our heart to the Lord. (*Life-study of Ephesians*, pp. 704-705).