

# Walk in Wisdom

## “Mind the Gap”

### Blueprint: God’s Design for the Church

**Ephesians 5:15-21**

Take your bibles out and open to the book of Ephesians chapter 5, and let’s stand together as we get ready to read the Word of God. I appreciate you being here this morning to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We’re doing a series of sermons called Blueprint: God’s Design for the Church. Last Sunday morning, we talked about verses 1-6 of chapter 5, how God has called us to walk in love. This morning, we’re going to read verses 15-21. Now, if you’re a regular here at Hardin, you know that normally we preach through entire books of the Bible, verse by verse, paragraph by paragraph, and some of you may be wondering what happened to verses 7-14. Honestly, I was not supposed to preach this morning, Kory was, and he was going to preach verses 7-14. But Ronnie called last week and asked me if Celisa and I wanted to come to Florida, and we thought that might be a good idea. So Wednesday, I am going to fly with Gran and Celisa, and we are going to take Gran back to Florida, and Ron is going to drive seventeen hours (isn’t he gracious) to get his pickup down there. We are going to help Gran get to Florida, and I’m just being a good son-in-law, amen. And so I’m not going to be here next week, so Kory just came up with this good idea. He said, “You were going to preach next week and I was going to preach this week, so why don’t you preach next week this week, and I’ll preach this week next week?” So we’re going to flip this passage, ok. I just told you last week that what I’m going to say next is based on what I’ve just said, well what I’m going to say this morning is based on what Kory was going to say this morning. So we’re probably going to be in big trouble, other than we’ve got the Holy Spirit, amen. And He is going to interpret for all of us, so you go home and read verses 7-14, and then you’ll understand why we’re saying what we’re

saying based on verses 15-21. We're going to miss you next Sunday, but we'll be in Florida, but shucks, I'm suffering for the Lord, amen. Chapter 5:15-21, listen to what the world of God says:

## **Scripture**

***"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. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ."***

(Prayer)

Father, we never apologize for just bowing in Your presence many times on Sunday morning asking You to just anoint us. We never want to be what we do to be an exercise of the flesh. You make us to be pneumatic beings, You made us to be spiritual beings, and Father we desire for you to anoint us with Your Holy Spirit, so that Father when we speak it will not just be a speaker talking, but it will be You sharing Your Word with Your people. And Your people won't just hear with their physical ears, but they'll hear with their mind, they'll hear with their heart, they'll hear with their spirit. They won't just be a hearer only, but we'll be doers. And Father that is our desire, to hear and speak, but ultimately be doers of Your Word. Father, thank You for this moment; get us ready now for these next thirty, forty minutes. Feed us and help us digest it. It's in Your precious, precious Son's name we pray, amen.

Have you ever had to tell somebody to look where they were going? Of course you have. You've probably had someone tell you that before. You've probably been doing something before and not really paying attention to what you were doing, and somebody have to say, "Look what you are

doing.” Those expressions mean there are times that you and I are so good at going, so good at doing, that we can literally put it on autopilot and go and do without thinking. In this day and age in which you and I live, there are a lot of distractions. I mean, how many times have you almost bumped into someone because instead of looking where they were going, they were reading, or texting on a smart device? You don’t know them but you want to say “Look where you are going.” How many times have you almost bumped into something, backed into something, and you didn’t even know it was there, but you should have known it was there because it was right in front of your face? I’ll never forget us being in England. The 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Celisa and I, you guys actually sent us, as a gift, to Scotland. We had some friends who lived in England, so we visited them for a week. We had three wonderful days in London, and to navigate that huge city, we took the underground. We went on what they called the tube. I will never forget us going from station to station throughout that city, and any time I would get ready to step off of the platform onto the train, there was a sign on the platform. It didn’t say what we would say in America, “Watch Your Step,” but it said, “Mind the Gap.” I struggled with that at first. It didn’t take me long to realize that the platforms in London are usually curved, but the trains are straight, so think about that. If you’re on the inside of a curved platform, in the middle when the door opens, it’s just a couple of inches. But if you’re on the outside entrance to that train, it can sometimes be many inches. It is right reversed when you’re the other way. So what they know is you don’t need to approach the train on autopilot and just take a step, because if you misstep and you don’t hit that platform, or you don’t hit that train and you go underneath that train and that train pulls out, can we just say, “It is hazardous to your health.” So ‘mind the gap.’

That’s what Paul is saying here. Watch your step. Don’t just step, don’t just walk around, don’t just live the Christian life on autopilot, but think about it, focus, put your mind on the danger that surrounds us as Christians. You see, in the first six verses, he told us because we are a new person in Christ; we are to walk in love. Next week, Kory is going to exegete verses 7-14 and share with us how we ought to walk in light. This morning what Paul is going to tell us is that we ought to walk in wisdom. We ought to

look carefully then how we walk. Paul is not telling us to concentrate on where we are walking; he wants us to concentrate on how we're walking, how we're behaving, how we're living as a Christian. He tells us not to be unwise, but to be wise. The Old Testament book of Proverbs and the wisdom literature of the Old Testament remind us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Wisdom for a Hebrew person was not theoretical, it was not intellectual, it was not the attainment of knowledge, but the right use of knowledge. As a matter of fact, if you go back through your Old Testament and look up the word wisdom, you'll see that many times when the Bible applies the word, wise, to a person, it's talking about someone who was skilled at what they did. It's talking about a carpenter. It's talking about a person who fashioned gold. It's talking about a lady who worked with her hands and made clothing items. You see, when they got ready to build the tabernacle, God instructed the children of Israel to choose wise men, and what that meant was they wanted master carpenters, they wanted master goldsmiths, they wanted master seamstresses; people who were skilled at what they do. Therefore, the word, wisdom, to a Hebrew person, meant basically this, you were skilled at living. It's the right application of what you know. There are a lot of people we say have book smarts, but no common sense. They do not know how to take what they know and put it into application, and therefore they make disastrous choices, and bring terrible consequences to their family. So what Paul is saying to us as believers is he doesn't want us to walk unwisely, but he wants us to walk wisely. What's the beginning of a wise walk? It's a fear of God. Now there is a sense in which fear has a negative side and a positive side.

Every time I see the word, fear, I can't help but think of this; I think of Celisa. You know my wife; she has this phobia about snakes. She can't help it. Every time she sees a snake, she's afraid of snakes, she runs from snakes. But here is what I've noticed about her; any time she runs away from a snake, she always runs to something, and on the farm, that means she runs to the shed and grabs a hoe, and then she runs back to the snake. But as she approaches that snake, she is still fearful, but she's cautious as she takes that hoe and tries to end that snake's life. It doesn't matter how much I tell her there are some good snakes on our farm, she

does not believe in good snakes unless snakes are dead. Does that make sense?

You see, when we are first introduced to the words, fear of the Lord, yes, there is that sense in which as an unbeliever, we will run away from him because He is holy, holy, holy. But there is something inside you as a believer that while you know He is holy, holy, holy, you just can't stay away, can you? You've just got to come back into His presence, for when we come back into His presence, there is caution, there is reverence, so therefore; we stand in awe of who He is. If you go back and study the wisdom literature of the Old Testament, the Bible presents God as creator and redeemer. So get this picture, if you really want to be skilled at living, if you really want to be skilled at life, you have to have reverence for the God who created life and who created you, and that's God. If we stop and think about it for just a moment, if God created life, doesn't that mean He knows more about life than we do? Amen. Now if God created life and He has given us instructions on how life ought to be lived to bring maximum glory to Him, and ultimate satisfaction to us, shouldn't we live that kind of life? It starts with fearing Him, understanding He is creator. And if you understand He is the creator, there is a sense in where you're just a little bit scared to not live life His way, because if you don't live life His way, then your life will not turn out the way He wants your life to turn out, and some of those things He's warned you about, they will come to pass. Have you ever wondered how it must hurt God when we, His creation, do not live the life the way He intended us to live it?

I'll never forget Celisa and Kory when Kory was a little boy. Not all the time, but many times I saw Kory do something and Celisa look at him and say, "I birthed you, (you know what followed, right) I can take you out." I don't know why, but Celisa just believed that there was this sovereignty she had over Kory that for some reason because she birthed him, because she brought him into this life that somehow, he ought to do what she told him to do. And she would remind him from time to time, "I birthed you." Wow.

Do you believe God has sovereignty over your life? You know we live in a day in which many people don't fear God, don't believe we should fear

God, but yet, Jesus Himself said don't just fear him who can kill the body, dear Him who can kill body and soul. That is God. What does that fear lead to? It leads to wisdom; it leads to you and I being skilled at living because we have an advantage because we live life the way He ordained us to live life. Now why does He want us to live life skillfully? Why does He want us to be wise? Here is what He tells us with a participle, "making the best use of time because the days are evil." Making the best use of time...see this word, time; in the Greek language, there were two words for time. There was 'Chronos' and 'Karros.' Chronos is where we get our English word, chronology from. So Chronos talked about time following time; minutes turning into hours, hours turning into a day, days turning into weeks, weeks turning into months, and months turning into years in a chronological amount of time. But Karros, that was different. As a matter of fact, the Greeks had a statue of Karros. Did you know that? There is a statue of Karros and he has wings on his feet, he has long hair that starts from his forehead and covers his face, and then when you go behind the statue, from his forehead back, he is bald. There is an inscription on the statue to where someone asks him, "Why do you have wings on your feet." To which he replies, "Because I will fly away." When asked why he has hair covering his face, he says, "So that you can grab hold of me head-on." Then, he is asked, "Why are you bald in the back?" To which he replies, "Because once I'm gone; gone forever."

Do you see this picture? Why does Paul want us to watch our step carefully? Because he knows God has given you and I opportunity. Karros time in your Chronos time. There is a moment that just happens to where you have an opportunity. What opportunity? You see, next week Kory is going to tell us that we are no longer children of darkness, but we're children of light. Therefore, we can't be partners with those who are in darkness, but God has not opened our eyes as a child of light and we are supposed to expose, not be partners with things that are done in the darkness. He paints this contrast between the life of a believer and the life of an unbeliever. Now, what Paul is telling you and I is this; because we are now a child of light, God gives you and I opportunities many times during the day, many times during the night, that we need to grab hold of and make the best use of. This phrase, "make the best use of," is

translating one Greek word, *Agorazo*, which literally means to buy out. It's the picture of going down into the marketplace, deciding you want to buy something, and you purchase it; but in order to purchase it you have to pay the cost. So the word literally means 'to buy back, to redeem.' That's why the King James translates this phrase, 'redeem the time.' Make the most of every opportunity. That's why God wants us to be wise. He doesn't want any opportunity to pass by us that we weren't aware of.

Why?... "because the days are evil." Let that sink in. I don't know if it's just the people I associate with or just the people I read, but I'm hearing a lot of people who are surmising that the world, the United States in particular, is getting worse and worse, and maybe it's time we Christians just pull out. Maybe it's time the world we're living in is such a threat to us, (this is not a political statement) but maybe we just need to build a wall around us to keep what's in, in, and what's out, out, because man it's bad out there. It's dangerous out there. And our way of life is in danger. Does anybody hear what Paul's saying? Paul is saying the reason you and I have opportunity like we have, and the reason we need to be wise and not unwise is because the days are evil! Please tell me you're getting this. Because the days are evil doesn't mean we, the church, withdraw. It means that we engage in a world of darkness that we are not partners in or with, but as we walk as a child of light, as we walk in love, God's going to give us opportunities to grab hold of to where we're going to be the influencers, not the influenced. Why are the days evil? Ephesians chapter 6 is going to tell us that we have an enemy, his name is Satan, and that we are eventually to put on the whole armor of God so that we can withstand him in that evil day, and when the day is over, we will still be standing. Why are the days evil in which you and I live? Because there is a god of this world who is not God, he is Satan, and he is the prince of the power of the air, the prince of this world, and he is anti-God. Please hear me believers. There may have been a time in the Bible belt when you could have put it on autopilot, but you can't live on autopilot anymore! You can't just make assumptions, you can't just believe things; it's time to wake up and see the days we're living in are evil! They are under the influence of Satan, and yet, God has called you and I to take advantage of every opportunity He brings our way.

Therefore, he says don't be foolish, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. But he starts out with a 'therefore.' Based on this truth, that the days are evil and God wants us to take advantage of every opportunity, he doesn't want us to walk unwisely, but he wants us to walk wisely, he wants us to be street smart, he wants us to be skilled in life, he wants us to be master Christians, he says don't be foolish. The Old Testament's clear in the wisdom literature that "the fool has said in his heart, there is no God." I get so tickled how our society paints the smartest, brightest, and most intellectual as the person who doesn't believe in God. And the Bible calls that guy a moron, a fool, an idiot. I know I'm not supposed to say that stuff publicly, but you get it. Now, Bro Ricky, why would you quote that; none of us believe there is no God? Therefore, we are not fools, but Christians can be foolish in certain areas of their life. What would that mean? Here is what it would mean; it would mean that I, as a Christian, turn my eyes, turn my mind, to what God has said about certain things and certain subjects and I disregard them, and I live as if in that area there is no God. Did that make sense? In other words, I willfully reject what God says about certain things. The Bible says I'm being foolish. While I may believe there is a God, I'm living my life as if there is no God.

Paul says don't be foolish, but have a mind, have a heart that understands what God's will is. He is writing a letter to the Ephesians church to let them know that God, in His wisdom, God's will is to reconcile all things in Heaven, on Earth, under the Earth, in Christ, and that ultimately, He has torn down a curtain, broken down walls, and He's taking Jews and Gentiles, putting them together, and starting a new race of people. And this new race of people will be His people, and He will put His presence in this people. And He is building a new temple that's going to bring honor and glory to Him. Each one of us who are believers is one of those stones in that temple.

Then he tells us, do not get drunk with wine, which is debauchery but be filled with the Spirit. Now I want you to see the progression. He tells us to watch our step. How do you watch your step? You walk wisely. Now he is going to tell us how to walk wisely. Number one, we don't walk foolish. We strive to understand the will of God so we know God's will for our life. Here

is God's will for our life, He is conforming me to the image of Jesus. Why? Because the days are evil. And He's working in me and He is working through His people, He is wanting us to grab hold of every opportunity He brings our way so that we can influence those people who are in darkness, and we will be a child of light and we will let His light shine through us so that we'll not partner with evil, but we'll actually expose evil. So here is what he says, if you're going to be wise and you're going to watch your step, you're going to mind the gap, you can't get drunk with wine, which is debauchery.

Now, I want to be totally honest with you. After I get all I can get out of a passage, I turn to the scholars and I read the scholars, and I consult a lot of scholars. And they are all pretty unanimous on this thought; they don't understand why Paul compares being filled with the Spirit to not getting drunk with wine. I've read person after person who just says, why would Paul put that statement in there? It just seems out of character to not get drunk with wine. Now that bothers me because I'm a pastor. This is not theory; this is life we're living. So here is what I want to do; I want to step out on a limb and give you my thoughts. I think there is a good reason why Paul said what he said in this passage, and here it goes. What have we been talking about since chapter 4? Since chapter 4, we've been talking about this, our new identity in Christ. My new identity in Christ is that I'm a saint of God. I'm now alive to God, dead to sin, but I used to be a sinner who was alive to sin, dead to God. I used to live according to my unredeemed flesh, but I now live according to the Spirit of God. I have a new nature that does not want to sin. I have a new nature now that wants to obey God. Does everybody agree? I've got a new walk. I'm supposed to put off the old and put on the new. And I've got a new wardrobe that's going to let everybody know who I am in Christ. And I'm supposed to be walking in love, and I'm supposed to be walking in light, and now I'm supposed to be walking in wisdom. But man, the days are evil. They really are. As a matter of fact, if I can be totally honest with you, I think a believer ought to realize the days are more evil than an unbeliever ought to realize the days are evil. So therefore, there is more of a burden on us because we see life differently. Does everybody agree? Tell me you agree. Now, before I accepted Christ, as a sinner when the days were evil and I

couldn't handle the day, I couldn't handle the moment, do you know what I would turn to? I would turn to wine. I mean it was the beverage of the day. If you drank the water, it would kill you. It had bacteria all in it. But you know, when you drink the wine sometimes you would take the drink, and then it takes a drink. And the next thing you know, instead of using the wine as a drink, or using the wine as a medicine like Paul told Timothy to do because he had something going on with his stomach, we used it to cope. We used it to knock the edge off, and the next thing you know, you had unbelievers living in a state to where they weren't in their right mind. They weren't in control. The wine was in control. And that was just their natural reaction. Just like when he told us in chapter 4 to put off certain things, well those are things those believers used to do. Now he says to put that off, and put this on. Now he understands when he shares with us that the days are evil and that we better take advantage of every opportunity, here is what he knows; if you, as a believer, go back to what you used to go back to, and that is wine, you are going to blow it. You are going to blow the opportunity.

Do you see that phrase, 'which is debauchery?' Now I don't know about you, but when we think of debauchery, I see the wino in the gutter, who the wine caused to lose everything that he had; that is debauchery. I see some of my friends who used to go to school with, who got drunk and did dumb stupid stuff; that is debauchery. But do you know what this word, debauchery, means in the Greek? It's the same word as 'to save,' except it's got a prefix in the beginning of it that means, 'not to save.' So if you don't save something, what do you do? You waste it; you squander it. Now look at the context here. What is the context? This is not a sermon about the use of alcohol. It's a sermon about Christians taking advantage of every opportunity God brings their way because their days are evil. And here is what God says; you don't want to squander an opportunity that I bring your way, so don't be under the influence of wine! Why? Because wine is a depressant, it's not a stimulant. I checked this out with Brian Swain, I checked this out with Dr. Brad Albertson, and I checked this out with Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones. I remember when my daughter, Kiki, was studying to be a nurse, I would call her and say, "Kiki, what are you doing?" And she would say, "Oh Dad, I've got all of these drugs and I've

got to categorize them." Some of those drugs were depressants, and other drugs were stimulants. You've heard of antidepressants. Speaking pharmacologically, (I practiced that word!) if we were to get a medical textbook out, do you know where wine is listed? As a depressant, whoa! And people actually say when they take a drink it makes them feel better. Do you know why? It's because it depressed you. Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones, medical doctor in England, who also pastored the Westminster Chapel for thirty plus years, followed the great G Campbell Morgan, says that when we begin to drink wine or alcohol, it depresses the highest center of our brain; the part where we have self-control, the part where we discriminate, the part where we make judgments, the part where we're balanced. It depresses that, takes that ability away to think on the highest level. And then ultimately, if we drink enough to the point that we get under the influence of it, what it does in your brain is bring you down to the most basic level of existence. That's what we call the animal level. That's why some people get great courage when they are under the influence. That's people will say things they wouldn't normally say when they are under the influence. Discernment is gone, judgment is gone, the ability to reason, it is gone. Why? Because wine depresses.

Now get this picture; I'm a believer, I came out of a life of sin, so now as a believer, I'm more aware of how evil the days are. I'm more aware of the load that's upon me. I'm more aware of my responsibility of being a Christian. So when I come home, I've just got to knock the edge off, just got to calm down a little bit. Do you know what Paul says? You are going to miss an opportunity. You are going to miss an opportunity to be the influencer of those around you. Here is what he wants us to know; we don't need to be depressed. What we need to be is stimulated. Now the medical profession hasn't, but if we could put the Holy Spirit under a category, pharmacologically, the Holy Spirit would not be a depressant; He would be a stimulant, amen! So here is what Paul says, Paul says watch this, I want you to change your drink! Now follow me, don't be offended; just follow me. Tuesday is my day where I'm down here all day, try to be, I want to be. I will meet with people for forty-five minutes to an hour and fifteen minutes, and just meet whoever is scheduled. At sometimes, between people, I have to go, "Excuse me, could you give me just a

minute?" and I run out to the water fountain and I get a drink. As a matter of fact, I've started bringing a hydro flask of water with me to church to drink. Casey and Lilly keep that filled up. From time to time, I don't know what it is, but I just need a drink. I need to be refreshed physically, so I take a drink of water, and somehow it just hydrates me. It just refreshes me, and it gets me through my entire day. Now here is the picture; in John chapter 7, Jesus talked about the coming of the Holy Spirit that He would be a well, a river of flowing water that would spring up into everlasting life! So get this picture; when the day gets bad because the days are evil and life starts to overwhelm me as a Christian, I have a choice. I need a drink; do I choose to drink from a bottle, or do I choose to drink from the well? I don't have to go out and purchase something because God has given me the presence of His Holy Spirit inside me to stimulate me, so that in that moment, under His control, under the control of the third Person of the Triune God! Oh, I'm wise with my wife, I'm wise with my husband, I'm wise with my children, I'm wise with my employers, and I'm wise with my employees. Is this beautiful? God doesn't want any of us to miss out on an opportunity because we were under the wrong influence. He wants us to be experts at life, and being an expert at life is understanding that, wow, you need me right now, and so you need me right now to be at my best. For me to be at my best, I need to be under the control of the third Person of the Triune God.

This is a command. It's an imperative, "...but be filled." This word, 'filled,' means to be under the influence of, it means to be under the control of; it means to be soaked, saturated with. It's plural, which means it's for the whole church, not just for the preacher. Can I ask you this question? How many of you would be offended if on Sunday morning I were under the influence of wine rather than the influence of the Holy Spirit? How many of you would be offended? Raise your hand; you would be offended. As a matter of fact, some of you would say I am not coming back to hear you preach. I hope you got that. Every person in your life who depends on you, needs you to be under the control of the Spirit, amen.

It is continual action, ongoing; I need to stay under the control of God's Holy Spirit. And then he is going to give us five descriptive participles that

tell us what that life looks like. Then he's going to go into it individually, what it looks like at home, what it looks like at work, and what it looks like out in the world. That is coming up in a couple of months, but this morning he says, "...addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ." See those 'ing' words; addressing, singing, making, giving, submitting; they look like verbs. They are not verbs; they are verbal modifiers. They are participles. They modify verbal action.

How do we know when a person is under the control of God's Holy Spirit? Well in this context, here it is; we address one another. I don't have me on my mind; I have you on my mind. Can I just be totally honest? Most of the time, when you get your feelings hurt and it's about you, you were in the flesh, not under the Spirit of God. Did not Jesus say when the Spirit came He would deflect all glory from Himself and put the glory of God, the Son? So when it's about you, you are probably in the flesh. When we are under the control of the Holy Spirit, we address one another; we speak with one another. I come into the worship life, I come into the body, and it's about you, it is not about me.

You know what we use; we use psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. We sing; we make melody to the Lord with all our heart. Please tell me you see this. If I as a believer am going to take advantage of every opportunity because the days are evil, I value psalms, I value hymns, and I value spiritual songs. Have you noticed there are three different words, psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs? You know what a psalm was in the New Testament day was, right? It was a psalm that was written, and in the Old Testament book that had about a thousand years earlier. So here is what Paul is saying, if you are under the control of the Holy Spirit, you recognize the value of psalms in your life, psalms that were written a thousand years before. Then you are aware of the hymns, those things that are being written today. Then you are aware of those spiritual songs, those little ditties, those little verses, those little choruses that God's Holy Spirit inspires at the moment, someone to write, and someone to talk about. You

are aware of the value of all three of those. This is why music, in the Christian church so typifies, most churches aren't under the control of God's Spirit. I can't tell you how many times young people don't want to sing, do not see the value in songs that were written five hundred years ago! Do you know why you don't see the value? It's because it's all about you. Then you older people, Matt leads us to sing a new song, we sing a new chorus that the youth love, and you hate it! Why? Because it's all about you. Total, 100%, grade A flesh! Worship is about me, the most foolish thing a Christian can think! Worship is about our God, amen! If I'm under the control of God's Holy Spirit, I'm going to be concerned about you, you are going to be concerned about me, and we're going to speak to one another in the song, so there is going to be a point where we are addressing each other.

Now I'm going to admit something. I shouldn't admit this, but I can't tell you how many times since I've been at Hardin, since we've been singing that song, How Great is Our God, we sang it last Sunday, How Great is Our God. Can I just ask you, how great is our God? Wow, is He great, or is He great! But there is a little verse in that song where it says, "come sing with me, how great is our God." Now at that moment in that song, I know I, as a Christian, am supposed to address somebody else because it's not about me singing about how great is my God, I'm supposed to say, come sing with me, how great is our God. I sit there on the front row and I have the Holy Spirit come upon me and I want to do this; I want to run and say, "Come sing with me, how great is our God, please sing with me, how great is our God, please sing with me, how great is our God!" Have any of you ever wanted to do that? I don't know if you've noticed this, but sometimes, not as a pastor, but just as a Christian, I turn around and I've got to look! I've got to look and see what you're doing, because this isn't supposed to be about me, and it's not supposed to be about you. It's supposed to be about our Lord! But you are supposed to be in this for me and I'm supposed to be in this for you. So therefore, we are supposed to address one another. If I'm under full control of God's Holy Spirit, I will sing to the Lord, I'll make melody! This means I make music to the Lord. So see, while I'm worshipping, I'm addressing you, but we're doing it to Him with all of our heart. Be honest, how many of you this morning sang and your heart

wasn't in it? You just put it on autopilot. Matt wasn't here, everything wasn't the same, and you just mouthed something. When will we as a church ever let go? If we can't live under the control of God's Spirit in here in worship, how will we do it out there?

He says, "...giving thanks always for all things." It's just amazing how when I'm in the flesh how bad everything is. Woe is me! I can't believe this is happening to me! What did I do to deserve this? Yet, Paul says one of the evidences of being controlled by the Holy Spirit is I will be thankful, thankful to God. I promise you, if you're not singing to Him, if you're not making music to Him, you will not give Him thanks. We give Him thanks in the name of Jesus. There is no situation to which we do not have the spiritual judgment that I view this situation through what God did for me on a cross in His Son when He put His Son on a cross in my place. I'm going to thank Him that the Bible says "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He predestined. For those whom He predestined, He called. And those whom He called, He justified. And those whom He justified, He gloried. And nothing shall separate me from the love of God." So there will be nothing that will happen to me in my life that will cause to ultimately one day not to be who God has called me to be, and that is to be like His Son Jesus Christ.

Then, I'm going to submit to you. If you want to know if I'm a pastor under the control of the Holy Spirit of God, you just watch how many times I submit to this congregation. If I want to know if you are really under the control of the Holy Spirit of God, I want to see how many times you submit to the congregation. I don't bring my title in here, and I don't bring my experience in here, and I don't bring my maturity in here and lord it over anyone. We are members of the body of Christ, and in this family, whether you are the elder brother or the younger brother, whether you've been saved for seventy years or you just got saved and baptized this morning, we are one! Because in this body, there are no curtains, and in this body, there are not walls. Why? It's because we are a new race of people. We don't live unwisely, we don't live foolishly, and we don't live under the influence of a depressant. We live under the control of God's Holy Spirit

and we understand God's will and we live skilled at what we do. So when someone needs a master at life, an expert in life, who are they going to call? They are going to call the Hardin Baptist Church because our reputation precedes us, amen! Tell me you get it. Let's live this out.