Walking the Narrow Road

Zanesville, OH | July 15, 2018 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** Ephesians 5:15-17

**Intro**:

* The concept of the Narrow Road appears virtually throughout all scriptures. Jesus makes it a point to stress such a concept quite regularly throughout his sermons and teachings emphasizing to the believer there is one road to take and it is narrow. The popular choice, the popular opinion is not God, its sin. That broad, that’s a wide scope. But when it comes to God is unpopular, minimal, narrow. How do we walk the narrow road?

**The Ephesian Guideline**

1. **Walk Wisely**
	1. A Christian must be harmless as a dove yet wise as a serpent (Matt. 10:16). The apostles would be sent out into an evil world (wolves) and Jesus knew they would often be treated with hate and contempt (sheep). Such situations require wisdom more than anything else.
	2. The need for wisdom for the Christian might be compared to the child who needs to understand the importance of looking both ways before crossing the road. The parent gives the child instruction and thus ours comes from God (Jam. 1:5).
	3. The wisdom that we need to walk the narrow road is the wisdom from above (Jam. 3:17). It comes from God and it’s the wisdom Solomon prayed for (1 Kings. 3:5, 9, 14).
2. **Do not waste the time you have left**
	1. Our lives on this earth is far too short for us to be throwing away the time we do have left (Jam. 4:14).
	2. We ought to take advantage of all the opportunities we have to do good, spread love, preach the gospel and save souls since we may not have many (Matt. 22:37-40; 2 Tim. 4:2; Jude 1:22-23). The days we live in are evil and many are sucked in to the devil’s warped offers. Any difference we can make, no matter how little, will go a long way.
3. **Understand the will of the Lord**
	1. In these three short but powerful verses, an inclusio admonishes the believer not to deny wisdom. Doing such things would render us foolish (Prov. 1:7)
	2. To be wise is to understand God’s will (Prov. 2:6). It’s not difficult to know what God wants since He tells us what to do explicitly and repeatedly (Mic. 6:8; 1 Pet. 3:8-12).
	3. God is so good and so loving He gave us everything we need to get to Him starting and ending with His Son. And in the immediate context of Paul’s teaching, ultimately it is God’s will that we imitate His Son (Eph. 5:1-2).

**Making it down the Narrow Road**

1. Pray for wisdom like Solomon to do what is right.
2. Take advantage of all the opportunities you have to do good.
3. Ensure that you understand what God expects from you.