

No testimony of Christ in 12 years of public school ... what's wrong with that?

Ephesians 5:8-9 ... 13-19

⁸For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light: ⁹(For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;))

...

¹³But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. ¹⁴Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. ¹⁵See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, ¹⁶Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*. ¹⁸And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; ¹⁹Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; ²⁰Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Goodness:

Ephesians 5:18-20

¹⁸And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; ¹⁹Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; ²⁰Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Righteousness:

Ephesians 5:15-18

¹⁵See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, ¹⁶Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*. ¹⁸And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Truth:

Ephesians 5:13-14

¹³But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. ¹⁴Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

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Let's get over the idea that what we don't do makes us righteous:

Colossians 2:20-22

²⁰Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, ²¹(Touch not; taste not; handle not; ²²Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?

The four gospels don't focus on what Jesus didn't do. That would be ridiculously boring ... No! No! We read what Jesus Did!

John 21:24-25

²⁴This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true. ²⁵And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

Paul echos this sentiment in 2 Corinthians:

2 Corinthians 8:11-12

¹¹Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as *there was* a readiness to will, so *there may be a performance* also out of that which ye have. ¹²For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.

The focus is Joshua is also positive, not against the negative:

Joshua 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Now I'm not saying that God doesn't instruct us not to do some things. Only the focus of the New testament is on the affirmative:

2 Corinthians 1:18-20

¹⁸But as God *is* true, our word toward you was not yea and nay. ¹⁹For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, *even* by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. ²⁰For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

Now back to our text about affirming "Goodness":

Ephesians 5:18-20

¹⁸And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; ¹⁹Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; ²⁰Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Briefly in the first sentence, we're instructed to not get drunk, and yet part of the motivation here is to provide a comparison ...

What is another name for acholholic beverages ??? ... SPIRITS

Don't be filled with those "spirits" ... be filled with the HOLY SPIRIT.

Jeremiah 23:9

Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of his holiness.,Äù

If you want an addiction, get addicted to the ministry!

1 Corinthians 16:13-16

¹³Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. ¹⁴Let all your things be done with charity. ¹⁵I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) ¹⁶That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with *us*, and laboureth.

In this addiction, there is only one choice substance to get

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Ephesians 5:18-20

¹⁸And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; ¹⁹Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; ²⁰Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Righteousness:

Ephesians 5:15-18

¹⁵See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, ¹⁶Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*.

(Here as we look at righteousness, we see additional contrast: foolishness contrasted with wisdom)

And as we consider looking at the desirable substance to feed our addiction for ministry, look at this verse:

Proverbs 4:7

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Paul then says to cash in the time, to feed the ministry! Just like a junkie will steal or even kill to continue his habit ...

Colossians 3:5

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

1 Corinthians 15:31

I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

Mark 8:35

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

Ephesians 5:15-18 (OUR TEXT AGAIN)

¹⁵See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, ¹⁶Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*.

***Redeeming the time is a passion we should all have, and Paul directly associates this with "The Will of the Lord". I've heard so many people say that they want to know God's will. It's in this book!
Let's get busy and live it!***

Paul said in ...

Philippians 1:21:

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Truth:

Ephesians 5:13-14

¹³But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. ¹⁴Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

John 8:12

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Let's look at TRUTH:

Proverbs 22:19-21

¹⁹That thy trust may be in the LORD, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee.
²⁰Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, ²¹That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?

John 14:6 (GOSPEL MESSAGE)

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 18:37-38

³⁷Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.
³⁸Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault *at all*.

John 1:17

¹⁷For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Genesis 1:3

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

WAKE UP !!!

Ephesians 5:14 (Our text)

¹⁴Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

SUMMARY

- We need the truth to wake us up.
 - GOD SAID ... LET THERE BE LIGHT ... WAKE UP ... GET THE TRUTH!
- We need to be righteousness junkies,
robbing from the flesh to serve our addiction to the ministry
 - REDEEMING THE TIME
- We need to be good ... but goodness is not merely the absence of sin
 - GOODNESS IS DOING WHAT'S RIGHT
 - NOT JUST AVOIDING WHAT'S WRONG

And with Goodness, righteous, and truth ... we'll have the fruit of the Spirit operative in our lives. In fact, the great fruit inspector demands it. He will be testing whether our fruit is good:

Ephesians 5:10

Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

YOU SEE ... IT'S NOT ABOUT WHAT WE DON'T DO

(avoiding sins is just prerequisite):

IT'S ALL ABOUT WHAT WE DO!

And from CHAPTER 5 of GALATIANS

(that other great chapter on the fruit of the Spirit):

Galatians 5:18

But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

LET'S "AFFIRM THE AFFIRMATIVE" IN OUR LIVES

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen,
unto the glory of God by us.

Let's be zealous for "Good Works" and rock this world that we live in!

(AFFIRMING THE AFFIRMATIVE)

Jude :3

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation,
it was needful for me to write unto you,
and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith
which was once delivered unto the saints.