

## MAIN POINT

Followers of Christ are called to live according to the wisdom of God and not of man.

## INTRODUCTION

How can you tell where a person has given priority in their life?

Why is it easy to go off course in life and make unwise decisions?

A person's priorities can usually be recognized when observing where they give the most time and attention. A person may say that their family or church is a high priority in their life, but if they fail to give much time or attention to these things, then their claims will ring false. If we are not careful, we will naturally follow the supposed wisdom of man over the true wisdom of God. In Ephesians 5, Paul reminded his readers to recognize their brief amount of time on earth and make the most of it. The way that we do this is by seeking the kingdom of God above all things.

## DISCUSSION

### > READ EPHESIANS 5:15-17.

Why is wisdom necessary if we want to use our time to bring glory to God? Give some practical examples of what it looks like to live as wise people.

According to verse 15, what's the first step to living a life of wisdom with the right priorities?

Why do you think the first sign of wisdom that Paul gave was the careful use of time?

What does it mean to "be careful" or "look carefully" when it comes to time and living?

What's the difference between living carefully and living fearfully?

What is the casual approach toward using time? What is the careful approach?

What command did Paul give the Ephesians in verse 17? How can we know if we're being "foolish"?

How can we be more careful in how we use our time? What does "wise" time management look like? What does it have to do with God's will? Would you consider an over-scheduled person to be wise or unwise?

Do you think our problem with God's will is understanding it or obeying it? How can we be intentionally careful when it comes to the Lord's will?

## APPLICATION

Where specifically have you been convicted that you are following the wisdom of man and not God? What next step will you take?