

Sunday, August 18, 2024

## Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20

*God gave us the gift of life; it is up to us to give ourselves the gift of living well. —Voltaire*

**A**t some point in our lives, we come to the conclusion that we should no longer get behind the wheel. If we do not arrive at this realization on our own, one of two things will happen: Either our children will take away the keys, or the DMV will deny us a license to drive.

It's an important issue. No one wants to be responsible for injuring, or God forbid, killing another human being, because we were out of our depth while driving the car.

However, we might be able to delay the arrival of this day because of what's called "Driver Assistance Technology" — smart tech designed to help drivers reduce their driving errors. Here are some of these relatively new technologies: blind spot warning lights in side mirrors; automatic emergency braking; lane departure warning systems; backup cameras, rear cross traffic warnings; automatic high beams, and adaptive cruise control which automatically adjusts the vehicle's speed to keep a pre-set distance between it and the vehicle in front of it.

The Bible offers something similar. It's called *Spirit-Assisted Living*, and the apostle Paul mentions a few of the latest ideas in Christian living in today's Scripture reading. It reads like a training manual. Here, the wise old saint, writing whilst under house arrest in Rome, offers sound biblical advice about how to get along in life and at the same time glorify God.

This text has four primary warning systems:

- Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise.
- Make the most of time, because the days are evil.
- Don't be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
- Don't get drunk with alcoholic spirits, but with the Holy Spirit of God.

If we're going to be exuberant Christians, the joy should flow from the Spirit, not from spirits. So, let's lustily sing the bar songs of Scripture: "Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times" (vv. 19-20).

By following the Spirit-Assisted Ideas that the apostle Paul offers, we can ensure that we will be safe and that we will not cause injury to others.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Thank you, O God, for helping me to "drive" safely on the highway of life. Amen.*

*Blessings,  
Liana & Pastor Ben Matz*

**Daily Bible Reading**

- Sunday:** Galatians 1-3
- Monday:** Jeremiah 43-46
- Tuesday:** Jeremiah 47-49
- Wednesday:** Jeremiah 50-52
- Thursday:** Lamentations 1-5
- Friday:** 1 Chronicles 1-3
- Saturday:** Psalms 91-93

**VERSE TO REMEMBER**

*You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust." — Psalm 91:1-2*

## Compound Creation

**Directions:** You are given two clues, one each for two words. Take those two words and create a well-known compound word. A hint is given for each answer.

**Example:** Slang word for "dad" + what you might eat by the ear  
We're looking for a snack at the movies: **POPCORN**

1. To the rear + to tell someone that his employment is terminated.  
We're looking for the noise when there's a car exhaust explosion: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Below + a common pet.  
We're looking for a team or person who's expected to lose: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Symbol of Christianity + what you might tie with a ribbon on a present.  
We're looking for a medieval weapon: \_\_\_\_\_
4. A long weapon sharpened to a point + the place where coins are made.  
We're looking for a chewing gum flavor: \_\_\_\_\_
5. The color of night + what you might need when you have a flat tire.  
We're looking for a card game: \_\_\_\_\_
6. What bees make + Earth has one, but Jupiter has many.  
We're looking for a vacation after the wedding: \_\_\_\_\_
7. The absence of color + what you do to clothes when dirty.  
We're looking for a coverup of wrongdoing: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Pull the trigger + a human limb.  
We're looking for a weapon: \_\_\_\_\_



Answers to COMPOUND CREATION: 1. backfire, 2. underdog, 3. crossbow, 4. spearmint, 5. blackjack, 6. honeymoon, 7. whitewash, 8. firearm.