

**"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan****EPHESIANS 5****Ephesians 5**

**"Therefore, be imitators of God as dear children."**

(Ephesians 5:1) Greek, **Μιμητής, mimétés**, (*mim-ay-tace'*), The word is where we get our English word, **"mimic,"** and it is always used in the positive context in the New Testament. Paul is saying to the believers that on the basis of God's grace, we are being saved from a life of ungodliness and rebellion like our sin nature dictates. Now, we are to act and behave according to our Father in heaven. God has placed within our hearts the gift of the Holy Spirit, who desires to control our lives. We are to come out of the "dark life" and the filth and foolishness of life and walk in the light of God's truth and presence. Anyone who lives that life as a way of life is basically living in rebellion, which is not the characteristic of those who have been redeemed.

***"You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. Don't participate in the things these people do. For once you were full of darkness, but now***

***you have light from the Lord. So, live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true."*** (vv.5-9)

He goes on to say in verse 10 that we are to examine or discover. The Greek word is **δοκιμάζω, dokimazo**, (*dok-im-ad'-zo*). This is the word for testing or to prove something through examination and rigorous discernment. Do not be deceived! God wants His children to act like Him, and He will discipline us and lovingly and redemptively correct us. This is why we must saturate ourselves with the Word of God, or we will go astray.

Finally, Paul says we need to understand what the will of the Lord is, seeing the days in which we are living are dark, and we cannot afford to be unwise. He then commands all believers to allow the Holy Spirit to fill their lives. The term "fill" is paralleled to being filled with alcohol, which is indulgence. Believers must be filled, controlled by the Holy Spirit, who is the One who lives inside of us and enables us and empowers us to understand His Word and live in obedience to that Word.

ON THE WAY

**Prayer and Action Steps**

*Dear God in heaven, You are my Father, and I want to live in obedience to You in every way and every area of my life. Please help me not to be deceived, but to carefully discern Your will for my life and do it. Amen*