

Walking Circumspectly

“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise” (Eph. 5:15).

The best of hunters readily admit that wild turkeys are extremely hard to kill. One of the top reasons for this is that they are constantly on the move. From the time they come down from their roost in the morning until they fly back into the trees in the evening, they never stand still. During their daily walks, they also usually travel in flocks, making it difficult for the hunter to zero in on one target.

Two other characteristics of wild turkeys are their uncanny ability to watch and listen. Their amazing eyesight and color sense enables them to quickly perceive even the tiniest movement. Add to that their phenomenal hearing ability, not only hearing sounds, but distinguishing exactly the nature of the sounds. My dear friend, Pastor Charles Glover, Jr., told me, “If they had the ability to pick up smell, you would never be able to kill one.”

Since the word “circumspectly” signifies “diligence, caution and accuracy,” we might say that wild turkeys are an illustration of walking circumspectly. The Apostle Paul, however, was not speaking to turkeys when he penned this Epistle, was he? He was writing to people, God’s people, redeemed people. From the morning of our conversion until the evening of our lifetime, we must “walk circumspectly” as we move through this world.

Walking circumspectly is living responsibly! The statement in the text and the statements in the surrounding texts are personal words that demand responsible action. The recipients are referred to as “ye,” “you,” and “yourselves.” Here we read, “See then that ye walk circumspectly.” Back in verse 7 it was stated, “Be not ye therefore partakers with them.” Later, the Apostle wrote, “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” (5:19).

Walking circumspectly is living cautiously! Just before our text, the Holy Spirit gave a paraphrase of Isaiah 60, verses 1 and 2. “Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, Christ shall give thee light” (5:14). The idea is we need to be awake and alert in our spiritual experience. Like the wild turkey, if we fail to be cautious, if we do not look and listen, we will soon be a dead bird in the forest.

Walking circumspectly is living wisely! Again the text reads, “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.” Being cautious and careful as believers does not make us legalistic. Trying to make everyone just like us is what fosters legalism. We cannot trust ourselves, but we can trust the fullness of the Holy Spirit. May our lives be dominated by “the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him” (Eph. 1:17).