

**Tough Minds For
Tough Times**

**By
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Jr.**

Tough Minds for Tough Times

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Be very careful, then how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5: 15-16

Is it necessary to rehearse the current events of our times? Is there anyone whose head is buried so deep in the sand that they are completely unaware of the preponderance of crises that are challenging the worlds' resources? Our country is experiencing one major disaster after another, some caused by nature and others caused by man. To say the least, these are **Tough Times!**

We currently have a President whose thinks nothing about how his behavior impact the credibility of his

office and the country. He thinks that as long as we have a steady economy, and low unemployment in who cares about his behavior? As a nation we should! Around the world churches are under attack by hatemongers and various terrorist groups. Even locally in Louisiana we have had churches burned to the ground by a young white supremacist. I tell you these are indeed **Tough Times**! These are the times that try men's souls. And for those who are ill equipped to handle these times, this current season of chaos can and will overwhelm!

What is needed in the face of these **Tough Times**, are **Tough Minds**. We can not entertain an oki doki mindset that is not focused, nor has any vision for the way ahead. We can not allow room for procrastination to take root. The times are too evil!

We can ill afford shallow persona's that talk the talk, but can't walk the walk. We need **Tough Minds for Tough Times!**

Well I'm sure the next question is preacher what do you mean when you say **Tough Minds**? What is a **Tough Mind**? A **Tough Mind** is one that understands not only the value of a circumspect walk, but the power of a circumspect walk as well. One who values a circumspect walk knows that how you carry yourself before others can say a lot or a little about your character. How you live before others provides a window into your soul.

Now, you must not forget that while you can fool some of the people some of the time, you can not fool all of the people all of the time.

That's why circumspectness has value. Paul says in verses 8 - 13 *but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light* ⁹*(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)* **10and find out what pleases the Lord.** ¹¹*Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.* ¹²*For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.* ¹³*But everything exposed by the light becomes visible,* ¹⁴*for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: ¹"Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."* ²

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A circumspect walk is a careful walk. A circumspect walk is the walk of the righteous. A circumspect walk is the walk of the pure in heart.

The Psalmist may have phrased it best;

Blessed is the man

who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked

or stand in the way of sinners

or sit in the seat of mockers.

2But his delight is in the law of the LORD,

and on his law he meditates day and night.

3He is like a tree planted by streams of water,

which yields its fruit in season

and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does

prospers. ³

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What the Psalmist is saying to us today is that if you are going to have a **Tough Mind for these Tough Times** you must understand that the circumspect walk is mindful of not only how to walk, but where to walk. Whether we like it or not, we are defined by the company we keep. I know what you are thinking, wasn't it Paul who said that "we must become all things to all men by all means, that we might save some"? Yes, he did say that and what he meant by that was we must go to wherever the fallen may be and lift up Christ for them to see, but don't get so close that your identity is indistinguishable from theirs. Remember he also said "*And be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind*".(Romans 12:2)

Be very careful, then how you live, not as unwise

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools,

Please don't think that you can live any kind of way without consequences. Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap. If you sew foolishness, you reap foolishness. The Psalmist again says it best:

Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. ⁴

Nothing good comes from being a fool. One of the little boys that I constantly had to get on about his behavior in class told me: Mr. Thrasher I'm glad that I am the class clown, cause I like to make people

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laugh. I told him that while his fellow classmate laughed with him in class, they were laughing at him behind his back.

*See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, **Redeeming the time**, because the days are evil.*

*Be very careful, then how you live, not as unwise but as wise, **making the most of every opportunity**, because the days are evil.* Ephesians 5: 15-16

Redeem the time. Make the most of every opportunity. Life is too short and none of us know when our last day will be, so it behooves us to do all that we can do while we have the time. Jesus said” I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day, for night comes when no man can work. A **Tough Minded** individual waste not a second of time for it is too precious and in too short supply. **Tough**

Minds know that night signifies darkness, the stilling of work, the impediment of progress, lost opportunity. It represents death. Tough Minds are wise enough to work hard and work smart to ensure that they do all that they can do for the Lord and their fellow man.

Tough Minds know that we can not die on the cross for our sins, that debt has been paid, but we can live for Christ and show the world what it means to have

Tough Minds For Tough Times!

