

James Ellis 21 Again 1/15/2017

NOTE: There are more questions below than you are expected to answer. Please just choose a few that are relevant for your personal reflection & application.

- 1. What is one takeaway for you from this morning's message? How did God challenge you through the message?
- 2. Share a time when your "stinking thinking" led to unwise living? Everyone has been there before (or is there now), so don't allow embarrassment or shame stop you from sharing.
- 3. For you, practically, what does it look to live as someone who is wise?
- 4. According to Ephesians 5:16, "...the days are evil." The world has been this way ever since our rebellion against God in the Garden of Eden. But because of Jesus' sacrifice, having overcome death for our sake, we need not be afraid. With your unique experiences and gifts, how can you be an ambassador for God in these evil days? Because He first loved you, how is God calling you to love your neighbor as yourself?
- 5. Paul stressed to the Ephesian Christians the importance of "making the most of every opportunity." (v. 16) However, it is tough to be available to God in this way if we are chasing prosperity and safety. Have you ever thought that you were the "chief architect of your own destiny"? Have you ever lived and worked foolishly as though you were actually in-charge of your life instead of God? If so, how?
- 6. "Acting foolishly begins with thinking foolishly." We so easily misuse our freedoms.

 2 Corinthians 5:17 declares, "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here." How, in 2017, will you pursue fullness and newness offered in Christ?
- 7. The fruit of the Spirit is described as: "love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Galatians 5:22-24) Christians are called to live in a holy manner, led by the Word of God, empowered by the Spirit. When we live out our faith this way, what does it communicate to the world about our beliefs, about what we think?
- 8. Name one existing ministry or upcoming initiative/project at Central that excites you for 2017. How can you support it?