

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for February 10, 2019

Filled With the Spirit
Ephesians 5:18

I. Avoid the intoxication of wine (5:18a)

And do not get drunk with wine,

- Clarification of the command
 - “Wine was a common drink in that day and Paul is not prohibiting the drinking of wine but rather becoming intoxicated with it. This prohibition is similar to that found in the Wisdom Literature of the OT (Prov 23:31) which would be fitting, for the present context is concerned with wise living.”¹
- Biblical background of wine
 - Proverbs 23:29-35 “Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? 30 Those who tarry long over wine; those who go to try mixed wine. 31 Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. 32 In the end it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder. 33 Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart utter perverse things. 34 You will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, like one who lies on the top of a mast. 35 ‘They struck me,’ you will say, ‘but I was not hurt; they beat me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake? I must have another drink.’”
 - Luke 12:45 “But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk”
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:7 “For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.”
- The issue is control or influence
 - “When you get drunk you submit yourself to the control of alcohol, which permeates your system. And when the alcohol takes over, you become the kind of person alcohol influences you to be. That’s what ‘under the influence’ means.”²
 - Alcohol is a depressant but the Spirit is a stimulant

¹ Harold W. Hoehner, Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 700.

² John MacArthur, Unleashing God’s Word in Your Life (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2003), 132.

- Context of being wise
 - “Rather, he is charging them not to allow such behavior to become a habit in their lives because this would be considered unwise or foolish conduct. Intoxicated people are not in control of their faculties and thereby act foolishly. Therefore, they are unable to comprehend intelligently the will of the Lord.”³
for that is debauchery,
- Meaning of “debauchery”
 - “The word family of the noun ἀσωτία originally had the idea of an ‘incurable’ sickness and was used of ‘shamelessness, dissipation, profligacy, debauchery.’”⁴
- “Debauchery” in the NT
 - Luke 15:13 “Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.”
 - Titus 1:6 “if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.”
 - 1 Peter 4:3-4 “For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you”
- Debauchery contrasted with prior context
 - Ephesians 5:15-17 “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”
 - “It is the opposite of being wise which takes full advantage of every opportunity (vv. 15–16).”⁵
 - “The basic idea of the word is wastefulness and is often used in contexts of moral exhortation to describe a life that is devoid of virtue and representing a waste of time (contrasted to one who ‘redeems the time’)”⁶

II. Allow the influence of the Spirit (5:18b)

but be filled with the Spirit

³ Harold W. Hoehner, Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 700.

⁴ Harold W. Hoehner, Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 700.

⁵ Harold W. Hoehner, Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 701.

⁶ Clinton E. Arnold, Ephesians, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010), 349.

- Modern day filling of the Spirit
 - Being filled with the Spirit has come to resemble any type of emotion or hype that is religious in nature
 - Some have described the emotional impact as “being slain in the Spirit”
 - “Those who are *slain* exhibit trancelike behavior, usually falling backward to the floor like a dead person. At other times, those ‘overcome by the Spirit’ respond with uncontrollable laughter, mongrel barking, erratic twitching, and bizarre symptoms of intoxication. No behavior is regarded as too outlandish to preclude its being credited to the Holy Spirit’s ‘slaying’ power.”⁷
 - “A Pentecostal layman enthusiastically reports that—under the Spirit’s supposed influence—he ended up flat on his back, uttering ecstatic speech and sliding himself under the pews of the church until he finally reached the foyer. A Catholic charismatic faith healer claims that, at one of his meetings, a blind woman was slain in the Spirit along with her German shepherd seeing-eye dog! A charismatic prophetess remembers lying on the floor of a church meeting, embarrassed by the fact that she was laughing uncontrollably, after she was ‘blasted’ by a wave of Holy Spirit power. And a Third Wave pastor relates a worship service where more than a hundred people were unexpectedly knocked over. He wrote, ‘When people arrived for the second service, they couldn’t believe their eyes. Bodies, overcome by God, were strewn about on the floor. Some people were laughing; some were shaking.’”⁸
 - Even Charismatic brothers and sisters in Christ have acknowledged this concept of being “slain in the Spirit” or their rendition of Spirit-filled is out of line
 - “Even the pro-charismatic *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements* acknowledges that fact: ‘An entire battalion of Scripture proof texts is enlisted to support the legitimacy of the phenomenon, although Scripture plainly offers no support for the phenomenon as something to be expected in the normal Christian life.’”⁹
 - “God help us! We have turned the holy fire of God into a circus sideshow—and naive Christians are buying this without realizing that such shenanigans are actually blasphemous.”¹⁰
- Old Testament filling of the Spirit
 - The filling of the Spirit in the Old Testament was temporary and task-related
 - Spirit filled those who were constructing the Tabernacle and Temple

⁷ John MacArthur, *Strange Fire*, 197-98.

⁸ John MacArthur, *Strange Fire*, 198.

⁹ John MacArthur, *Strange Fire*, 200.

¹⁰ John MacArthur, *Strange Fire*, 203.

- Spirit filled Joshua to lead Israel after Moses
 - Spirit filled Saul to be king of Israel
 - Spirit departed from Saul
 - David prayed and asked God not to remove His Spirit from him
 - Psalm 51:11 “Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.”
- Distinguishing between different functions of the Spirit
 - Indwelling
 - Romans 8:9 “You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.”
 - Baptism
 - 1 Corinthians 12:13 “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”
 - Sealing
 - Ephesians 1:13 “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,”
 - “With the indwelling each Christian has all of the Spirit, but the command to be filled by the Spirit enables the Spirit to have all of the believer.”¹¹
- Proper definition of the filling of the Spirit
 - Commanded
 - “Be filled” is an imperative
 - Continuous
 - “Be filled” is a present tense imperative
 - “On the other hand, ‘be filled by’ and ‘walk by’ the Spirit expressed in the present imperative indicates that this is not an automatic bestowment at the time of salvation but an injunction for every believer to follow continually.”¹²
 - Compliant
 - “Be filled” is passive indicating that something must be done to us
 - “When Scripture uses a passive imperative, *commanding* us to have something done *to us*, it is commanding us to put ourselves in the way of

¹¹ Harold W. Hoehner, *Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 705.

¹² Harold W. Hoehner, *Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 705.

those channels of grace which the Spirit uses to conform us to the image of Christ.”¹³

- Ephesians 3:14-19 “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”
 - “One way to get a practical handle on the Spirit-filled life is to see it as living every single moment in the conscious presence of Jesus Christ. The Spirit-filled life is no great mystery; it is simply Christ-consciousness.”¹⁴
- How do we do this?
- Colossians 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”
- Parallels to being filled with the Spirit
 - Romans 6:13 “Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.”
 - Romans 8:14 “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”
 - Romans 12:1-2 “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18 “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”
 - Galatians 5:18 “But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”
 - Philippians 2:12-13 “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

¹³ Mike Riccardi, Sanctification, 18.

¹⁴ John MacArthur, Unleashing God’s Word in Your Life (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2003), 133.

- 1 Peter 2:1-3 “So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. 2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.”
- 2 Peter 1:3-5 “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge”