**June 24, 2018 “Do Not Get Drunk with Wine” Ephesians 5:18**

I would like to start off this morning with a recap of what we have learned so far from this verse found in Ephesians 5:18.

First, we learned that Paul often uses comparative language in his letters to the various Churches and this is no exception. In this verse or passage, he is comparing the pagan practice of getting drunk with wine to enhance one’s spiritual experience which according to the pagans was not only an acceptable practice but rather one of necessity, to obtain spiritual enlightenment. That is why Paul states, “Be not drunk with wine for that is dissipation but be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

What he is saying to the Church in Ephesus was this… “if you want to find spiritual fulfillment, do not seek it in the bottom of a bottle but rather be filled with the Spirit of God.”

Second, we looked at the word “dissipation” and found it to mean, “a waste of time”. We looked at Galatians 5:19-23 where Paul again is using comparative language to make clear the choices laid out before men.

On one hand if you want, the things listed in verses Galatians 5:19-21, follow dictates of paganism and you will not only experience the things listed but you will also reap the reward of those things as well, “those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God”.

But if you want, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control… follow after the things of God and you will reap a harvest of the fruit of the Spirit.

Finally, we looked at I Peter 4:1-4 to see the mindset of the Christian and what we should expect if we do not follow the crowd. I want us to especially note the beginning of verse 3 where Peter writes, “For the time already past is sufficient for you”. That is where the following things that are mentioned belong… in our past.

So now what are we to do with the dilemma which seems to face us? On one hand we know that the Bible condemns drunkenness and the Bible has shown again and again the poor decisions men have made while under the influence of wine and the other hand we see Jesus ordaining the Lord’s Supper with a cup of the fruit of the vine. We see the Apostles drinking wine, Old and New Testaments figures drinking wine and Paul exhorting Timothy to not drink just water but to take some wine for his stomach ailments. In this we see that the Bible does not forbid the drinking of wine.

What are we to do with this whole question of drinking wine as a Christian? I would like to give you some guidelines today.

1. Are we talking about the same thing?
   1. Is the wine of today the same as it was in the days of the Apostles?
      1. Three Greek words used for wine
         1. OINOS… juice of grapes
            1. Most common used word for wine
            2. Often referred to as mixed wine
         2. GLUEKOS… new wine as used in Acts 2 to deride those speaking in tongues
            1. Could ferment if left long enough in warm weather
         3. SIKERA… meaning unmixed or straight wine or strong drink
            1. That describes the wine of today as it is sold in liquor stores etc.
            2. Give strong drink to the perishing (Proverbs 31)
   2. Most common way to store or preserve OINOS
      1. Boil it down into thick paste
         1. Remove all fermentation
         2. Store it in wine skins
         3. Remixed with water… up to 20 parts water
      2. John 2:1-10
         1. Made of mostly water
         2. How long did it have to ferment?
            1. Was it then fermented wine?
            2. No
2. Is drinking of wine necessary today?
   1. Time of the Apostles
      1. Wine, water, fruit juice or milk
      2. That’s it
   2. What about today?
      1. Ever been in Kwik Trip?
      2. How many choices do you and I have?
   3. So, then the drinking of fermented beverages is a choice not a necessity
3. If it is a choice is it the best choice?
   1. Many people in the Bible chose not to drink wine at all?
      1. Samuel
      2. Samson
      3. John the Baptist
         1. They were called Nazarites
      4. Jeremiah 35… Rechabites entire family for generations
   2. Examples to us
      1. II Corinthians 6:17… “come out from among them and be ye separate says the Lord”
      2. Romans 12:1… “Present your bodies as a holy living sacrifice”
   3. What about I Corinthians 6:12?
      1. All things are lawful for me
         1. All things are not profitable
         2. “I will not be mastered by anything”
            1. Is it habit forming?
   4. What about your influence on others?
      1. I Corinthians 8:9-13
      2. What is Paul saying here?
         1. Am I supposed to live my life as an example to others?
         2. Am I supposed to care about what others think of me?
         3. Romans 14:12-21
         4. I Corinthians 10:31-33

What should be the two goals of my life? First that in all things I want what is done to glorify Christ. Second, I do not want to do anything to cause someone else to stumble and fall.