**June 10, 2018 “Be not Drunk with Wine” Ephesians 5:18**

As we have studied the book of Ephesians, we found that book is divided into two parts. The first part is a description of all that God has done for us through the sacrificial offering of Christ for the Church. The second half of the book is designed to show us how to live in response to all that Christ has provided for us. We are the redeemed of God. We have been bought with a price. We are given great and precious promises from God that are eternal. Our response to these promises calls us to walk in a manner worthy of the high calling of Christ.

Several years ago, Terry and I went to the Hoover Dam to view it. It is quite a sight to see this huge concrete edifice holding back the waters of Lake Mead and yet allowing the flow of water into the turbines which produces multiple megawatts of electricity as the force of the water spins the turbines. From those turbines, large transmission cables carry the power to various cities to pump water, heat and cool the homes of millions and provide light in millions of applications.

I liken the book of Ephesians to this scenario. The lake with its powerful flow of water from the Colorado River is like the first section of the book of Ephesians where all the unending promises of God are held in reserve for all those who are in Christ. The turbines represent Ephesians 3:14-21 as the power of those promises of God strengthen the inner man.

Finally the transmission lines represent Ephesians 5:18b… “but be filled with the Spirit”. The power for living this abundant Christian life does not come from within ourselves nor does it come from external circumstances but rather it comes through the flowing of the Spirit of God in our innermost being. As Jesus said, “From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water”. (John 7:38)

Now Paul as he is addressing this letter to the Ephesians again uses the same contrasting logic that he has used in addressing other issues in that affected the Ephesian Christians of his day.

Note:

* Ephesians 4:1-3… walking/living a different lifestyle
* Ephesians 4:17… do not walk/live like the Gentiles
* Ephesians 5:1-5… do not be deceived into thinking there are no consequences
* Ephesians 5:15… walk/live as wise people not unwise
  + Three aspects
    - Make the most of your time
    - Understand what the will of God is
    - Do not get drunk with wine

It is my opinion, that one of the subjects that is debated or discussed more often in Christian circles than any other is whether or not it is OK for Christians to drink alcohol.

1. Three main schools of thought
   1. Drinking alcohol is a sin and we should never drink
   2. Well they drank wine in the Bible and I just want to be Biblical in my walk
   3. As long as what I do does not offend my weaker brother (I Corinthians 10) I’m OK

I am not going to give you my opinion or what decisions I have made for my life… but I will tell you what the Word of God teaches and I will also give you some statistics of the world in which we live. Now this is going to take us more time that what we have today but we are going to start our study today.

1. Statistics
   1. Alcohol Use Disorder in the United States
      1. Estimated 15.1 million alcoholics in US 18 or older
         1. 9.8 million men
         2. 5.3 million women
      2. Estimated 623,000 between 12-17
         1. 298,000 males
         2. 325,000 females
      3. 88,000 died last year from alcohol related incidents
         1. 3rd leading cause of preventable death in US
            1. First is tobacco
            2. Second is obesity
      4. In 2010
         1. Cost of alcohol abuse in US
            1. 249 billion dollars
   2. Prescription drug use
      1. 55 million people in the US are taking some type of anti-depressants
   3. Read the obit of Leslie Ray Charping
      1. Hundreds of obits on heroin… 20-30 years old
      2. Cousin’s son… alcohol and anti-depressants
         1. Suicide
            1. Fashion designer
            2. Celebrity chef
2. Intoxication in the Bible
3. Examples
4. Noah… result in his grandson being cursed
5. Lot… committed incest with his daughters
6. Isaac… Jacob served him wine before he deceived him to get the blessing of the first born
7. Elad… got drunk… killed by Zimri
8. Ben-Hadad… got drunk at noon with his generals… army destroyed
9. Bel-shazzar… grandson of Nebuchadnezzar
10. I Corinthians 11:18-22
11. Intoxication
12. Never is the remedy for the cares of life
13. Every illustration of it in the Bible resulted in disaster
14. If you make a stand in your life
15. Expect
16. I Peter 4:1-4
17. Paul use this illustration to compare Christianity to paganism
18. Drunkenness and orgies were part of pagan worship
19. Satan always the deceiver
20. Greek mythology
21. Zeus was all powerful
22. Impregnated Semele… a mortal

Though they had never met

Aberration of the “virgin birth”

1. No one was allowed to be the presence of Zeus
2. Semele went anyway
3. She is instantly consumed
4. Zeus rescues the unborn baby and sews the baby into this thigh
5. Kept him there until maturity
6. Zeus sent Dionysus to earth to rule the earth
7. Titans were already there
8. Killed and ate Dionysus
9. But Zeus found the heart of Dionysus
10. Ate the heart and gave birth the baby again
11. Where he was “born again” by Zeus
12. Only Greek god who was both mortal and divine
13. Zeus then blasted the Titans with lightning
14. Reduced then to ashes
15. From the ashes
16. Came mankind
17. Who had the evil spirit of the Titans and the divine nature of Dionysus
18. Dionysus
19. The god of the grape harvest, winemaking and wine, of ritual madness, fertility, theatre and religious ecstasy in ancient Greek religion and myth. Wine played an important role in Greek culture, and the cult of was the main religious focus for its unrestrained consumption
20. Bacchus is the Roman name
21. Happy jolly fellow
22. Cup of wine in his hand
23. Nymphs surrounding him
24. All in a party
25. Whether its Timothy Leary (LSD) or Grace Slick (Feed your Head) or whomever
26. Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds
27. Picture yourself in a boat on a river  
    With tangerine trees and marmalade skies  
    Somebody calls you, you answer quite slowly  
    A girl with kaleidoscope eyes
28. Cellophane flowers of yellow and green  
    Towering over your head  
    Look for the girl with the sun in her eyes  
    And she's gone
29. Lucy in the sky with diamonds  
    Lucy in the sky with diamonds  
    Lucy in the sky with diamonds  
    Ah
30. Follow her down to a bridge by a fountain  
    Where rocking horse people eat marshmallow pies  
    Everyone smiles as you drift past the flowers  
    That grow so incredibly high
31. Newspaper taxis appear on the shore  
    Waiting to take you away  
    Climb in the back with your head in the clouds  
    And you're gone
32. Lucy in the sky with diamonds  
    Lucy in the sky with diamonds  
    Lucy in the sky with diamonds  
    Ah
33. Picture yourself…
34. Paul is saying here
35. Understand what the will of God is
36. “be filled with the Spirit.”
37. Speaking to one another in
38. Psalms
39. Singing
40. Making melody in your hearts to the Lord

II Corinthians 6:17… “Therefore, come out from among them and be ye separate saith the Lord.”

Next week we are going to look as to why we are called to be separate as found in both the Old and the New Testaments.