**June 17, 2018 “Do Not Get Drunk with Wine” Ephesians 5:18**

Last week as we entered into a study on this verse, we found out that Paul is addressing a spiritual issue with his statement in this letter to the Church at Ephesus. What he is saying in essence is this; both the Greek and Roman cultures in their quest for spirituality sought drunkenness as a means to enlightenment. The Greeks through their worship of Dionysus and the Romans through their worship of Bacchus, the jolly god depicted as a happy being surrounded by nymphs all having a joyous experience through drunkenness.

As I told you last week, I am not here to give you my opinion, nor am I here to flood you with guilt and am I not here to imply that just because you do not drink alcohol at all, you are somehow more spiritual in your walk with God. I am here today for one purpose and one purpose only and this is to tell what the Bible has to say about the drinking of alcohol or as it is often referred to in the Bible… wine, mixed wine, or strong drink.

It is interesting to me that Paul uses the word that is translated from the Greek into the word “dissipation”. That word, as it is used in this context, means, “waste of time”. Turn with me to Galatians 5:19-21 and look at the listing of the “deeds of the flesh” and then compare that to Galatians 5:22-23 and you will see what Paul is addressing here in Ephesians 5:18. He is in essence saying to the Church in Ephesus and to us today, that trying to find “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” in the bottom of a bottle… that is an exercise in futility… a waste of time.

Paul through the unction of the Holy Spirit issues this statement, “do not get drunk with wine” which is not a suggestion but rather it is a command that is found over and over again in Scripture. Here are a few… Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:17-21; I Thessalonians 5:6; I Peter 4:1-4… where again the word “dissipation” is used and contained in this passage is the expected result.

All this is sufficient to say that the Bible forbids drunkenness.

1. Ephesians 5:15
   1. Walk in wisdom
      1. Proverbs 20:1
         1. Is not wise
      2. Proverbs 23:19
         1. Listen and be wise
            1. Abstain from drunkenness
            2. Abstain from gluttony
            3. Abstain from harlotry Ephesians 5:27

Often go hand in hand with drunkenness

Why do you think men want to buy women drinks?

Western movies or shows

What is associated with saloons?

* + - 1. Ephesians 5:29-35
      2. Story of Mel Trotter
      3. Isaiah 5:11-12
      4. Isaiah 28:1-8

Has the Bible convinced you what it says about drunkenness yet?

1. But what about??
   1. These admonitions about wine?
      1. Psalm 104:10-17
      2. Isaiah 55:1-2
      3. I Timothy 5:23
      4. Luke 10:34
      5. Proverbs 31:6
2. So, what is it?
   1. Does the Bible forbid drinking of wine?
      1. The short answer is… “YES” and “NO”
         1. Matthew 11:1-14
         2. Luke 1:5-17