

Old Wine or New Wine?

Ephesians Part 28

Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not be drunk with wine which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:17-18

Paul has been teaching the Ephesian believers to live in the light, which is living in the truth. In doing so he has encouraged them to be wise. Wisdom looks at life from the culture of the Kingdom. Wisdom can help anyone see life from a new perspective so that they can make clear and productive decisions. Wisdom makes the most of every opportunity. It also gives another very big benefit. It will guide you in your ability to walk in the will of the Lord.

Paul has brought up a word that needs to be discussed by all: foolishness. A foolish person according to this verse does not understand the will of the Lord. In particular, a foolish person is led into debauchery instead of life in the Spirit. What is the difference?

An example of a foolish person is given above. Paul puts it this way; they get drunk on wine (alcohol) and become excessive. Debauchery, simply put, is indulging; one cannot control the desires of the body. Too much alcohol causes one to let down their guard against sinful patterns. One too many drinks and away goes the wisdom. And away goes the Spirit.

There is a direct correlation made by Paul that many folks overlook. He makes a statement about being filled with the “spirits” of men or being filled with the Spirit of God. If you are filled with alcohol spirits you will be led by your sinful emotions into sensuality (which means your bodily senses and desires are speaking louder than the Spirit of God). When you are filled with the Holy Spirit you will understand the will of the Lord and walk in it. What’s your choice?

As a Christ follower you need to make a choice between overindulgence in wine and overindulgence in the Spirit. Have you ever been so full of the Spirit that your body exhibited some of the symptoms of drunkenness? I don’t mean to be disrespectful of scripture or the Holy Spirit, but if you haven’t partaken of the heavenly gift of God to the point of overflowing you are missing out on the new wine! Believers, we need to be filled. I can’t fill you. Your boss can’t fill you. Entertainment can’t fill you. So it’s either alcohol spirits or the Holy Spirit. What’s your choice?

Solomon says wine is a mocker and beer is a brawler (Pr 20:1). He says, “Give beer to the perishing” (Pr 31: 6). He says that it is not for kings to drink wine or for rulers to crave beer (Pr 31:4). As kings and priests of the Most High (Revelation 1:6) we are to live on a new wine given by Jesus, the Holy Spirit. Peter said to the crowds on the day we call Pentecost, “These men are not drunk as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people” (Acts 2:15-17). So I ask you again, what is your choice?