

August 12th 2007: Filled for Living: Being filled with the Holy Spirit: Eph 5:1-20
When I was at school...taught in my English grammar.....

Not to make a sentence too long.....

The Apostle Paul...never taught that

Because the passage.....(Eph 5:18-21)...is all one sentence in the original Greek

Old King James version.....tried to do the same....by using heaps semi-colans

*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;
speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and
making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things
unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting
yourselves one to another in the fear of God.*

The reason why.....one gigantic sentence.....**He** is Summing up... the way a believer
--should live.....in a world.....a Society.....made up mainly.....non-believers

• **If you cast your eyes back to 4:17**.....You will see that in this section of.....
Paul is insisting that believers.....live and act diff to

And he hands out some very definite do's and don't's

- .v25 Don't lie.....always be truthful
- .v26 when you get angry, don't let it cause you to do a bad thing.... →you should deal with anger...before the sun
- .v32 Be kind and compassionate.....forgive
- 5:3 Should not even be a hint of sexual immorality.....or impurity, greed

When he gets to our huge sentence.....He has finished with the specifics
Now he is ready to send us out.....with a general exhortation for life....ringing in ears
(many of us....sat through....the→This is the end of your time here<<Speech

The first part is ***often a listing***.....character qualities sought to fill our minds with

Remember how we taught you....to be honest....Look out for others

To care for less fortunate....To pursue academic excellence

Then the last.....is the Grand EXHORTATION.....

Normally full.....well worn cliches

So **go forth** and seize the day....**Reach** for the Sky....climb the highest....

Make..proud **BE A Good Ambassador**

That's what Paul is doing here.....He reminds them ..specific behaviours

Then sends them forth.....out into their daily lives

With this grand manifesto booming out in their heads

• **Don't get drunk on wine which leads to excess**
(There would have been a few chuckles here.....Some sly glances.....)

Many....wondered where Paul was going with this

Because he would have known.....being drunk was not a big problem.....

• **Then with his next words**.....would have seen exactly where Paul was heading
Instead being filled.....(present tense referring to an ongoing exp) with the Spirit
(In other words→instead of having lives filled with alcohol....lives filled....)

And the Result of that will be:

- You will speak to.....
- You will sing and make music.....
- You will always be giving thanks.....
- And You will submit to one another.....

So we can see..... THIS being filled with the Spirit.....really important part
It colours a person's life...with joy, happiness, thanksgiving and servanthood
AND THE WONDERFUL.....YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK FAR IN ANY CHURCH.....
BEFORE YOU FIND CHRISTIANS WHO ARE JUST LIKE THAT !!!!

- **And they are so lovely to be around**
 Even amongst non-church.....They are liked and appreciated

This being filledmakes such a difference

And we know the odd days when the tide is out.....get cranky.....!!

So as a Christian.....Of course I want to be filled.....**But how....??**

I used to visualise God.....big bottle labeled-→The Filling of....

That if I could get myself into a pure state....

Normally in a church service.....Absolutely cleansed and obedient

Then He would pour.....and I would be filled

- **But the problem with that.....**Was that I knew the Spirit was in me.....
 And He doesn't come in degrees

It was then.....that Paul's illustration about being drunk.....made sense

For if you are drunk.....Then it's the alcohol that controls you

If you're a happy drunk then.....If you're an angry.....

- **To be drunk means.....**to put your life under the control of the alcohol
- **To be filled with the Spirit.....**to put your life under the control of.....

You don't have to reach a pure state.....for this to happen

You don't have to be perfect

To be controlled day by day by the Spirit.....is open to every Christian who wants...

It simply means deciding ...Today....I will listen to the VOICE of the Spirit

Voice of the Spirit rather...voice of anger....lust....bitterness....revenge.....fear...worry

Give the Spirit **Ownership** of the problems.....difficulties.....concerns that will arise

Ask the Spirit to **INSPIRE** me as I worship....read God's Word....pray.....exp God in life

Allow the Spirit to **CONTROL** my actions....and my reactions to others

Seek the Spirit's **ENABLING**...that I might live this day.....not in my strength...but in His