

The Filling

Ephesians 5:18-21 Sunday AM, January 14, 2024

Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-21 (NASB95) Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; 20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; 21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us. Loving others THIS way demands change of focus—from them, from yourself, to God. To imitate His love necessitates constantly looking to Him—studying His love driven by a growing awareness of being a recipient of this great love. This love is a love like none other, described in our chapter as pleasing to God—an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. Jesus' love pleased the Father. Do YOU care to please God? Then look to God and imitate Christ's love. Our passage gives both negative and positive identifiers of that love. No immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting. But instead, walk as children of Light 9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth). How does this live? Negatively by not participat[ing] in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead, expos[ing] them. Imitating Christ's love includes doing all this with a fixed gaze on Jesus 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. This way of life does NOT happen naturally but necessitates careful attention. Hence our passage reminds us, “be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” Christian, do the work of worshipping Christ. Sing His role and worth!

***Hymn (Powerpoint): We Worship Christ the Cornerstone**

How do we gaze at, imitate Christ? Why is it so essential? In spite of acknowledging problems in our spiritual life and our words affirming the need to look to Christ, we often push on waiting for crisis or emotional pressure to push something to the surface. Then, it is easier to go to google, youtube, or other people or resources helpful in the past, missing the central means for godly change. Today's passage commands, “Be filled with the Spirit.” What does that mean? Do you know what too much alcohol in the blood does to a person? Well, THAT'S how controlled you are to be by the Spirit of God. What will be signs of that level of Holy Spirit filling? You will head the direction of this passage wanting more of Christ. You will study more, ask more questions, obey, worship more. You will seek His heart instead of following your own. This song encapsulates some of this heart.

***Hymn #259: Breathe on Me, Breath of God**

***Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: I Will Go On**

Scripture: Galatians 5:13–26 (NASB95) For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” 15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

Offering: *Doxology:

As Pastor Jahn preaches this morning about the Spirit working to help you follow Christ, remember, this is the same Spirit who produces the fruit of Galatians 5—more of His love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, etc. LESS strife, jealousy and other works of the flesh. But our passage today focuses on additional fruit of a Spirit controlled life. Those filled with the Spirit will be 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; For those who love to sing, it is easy to check this off. For those who don't, it's easy to try to find a way around this. But in order to obey the heart of this command, there must be something to sing about, something to remember that makes creating a psalm or hymn both beautiful, but also a helpful tool to use together. And all of this reflects an overflowing heart of gratitude. 20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; Do you want to please the Lord? Then head toward this heart which includes song!

***Hymn (Powerpoint): I Will Sing**

Our final sign today of a Spirit filled life is one of submission. 21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. As we will see in the coming weeks, there is no room for independence when we “fear”—consider, follow, fellowship with Christ. You will seek to fit in with other people in your life according to God's roles—marriage, family, society, church. Together, together, together—God's people are knit together by God. Sing the togetherness of the gospel (first 4 in book, last 2 wall).

***Hymn #187 (Red)/(Powerpoint): Blest Be the Tie**

Message: The Filling Eph. 5:18-21

***Hymn #398: Fill My Cup, Lord**

***Prayer**