

August 12<sup>th</sup> 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 filled .....makes 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