

## Sermon Text Discussion Notes 1/19/2020

Ephesians 5: 15-21 Ephesians: The Gospel for All of Life

by Drew Hunter

### *The Wisdom-Seeking Spirit-filled Life*

#### Overview

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This text highlights two realities that we often don't hold together well, but should mark our lives as Christians: wisdom, and the Spirit.

**The Wisdom-Seeking Life (v. 15-17)** A large part of wisdom is to make the best use of our time. Also, we need to learn the will of Jesus. God has a sovereign will—this is his plan for everything in human history. He is working everything together according to his plan. God also has a moral will, or his will of desire; which we learn by hearing his commands. When God calls us to know his will, it is often his moral will—we are to know how to live like Jesus and reflect his character. We learn his will from his Word, life in community, and identifying and repenting of spiritual pride.

**Spirit-Filled Life (v.18-21)** Believers are to not get drunk but be filled with the Spirit. To be filled with the Spirit is to be influenced and controlled by the Spirit (in contrast to being controlled by alcoholic drink when one is drunk). Two marks of being filled with the Spirit are Christ-centered singing and giving thanks.

#### Quotations

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*"One under the influence of spiritual pride is more apt to instruct others... and naturally puts on the airs of a master; whereas one that is full of pure humility naturally has on the air of a disciple"*  
(Jonathan Edwards)

*"Drink because you are happy, but never because you are miserable. Never drink when you are wretched without it... but drink when you would be happy without it"*  
(G.K. Chesterton)

#### Understanding & Application

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1. Are the more thinking type who likes to analyze life and think everything through or the feeling type who wants to experience God? How could you broaden your horizon to embrace more of what the Lord has for you?
  2. Verse 16 commands us to make the best use of your time." In your life right now, what is interfering with you pursuing the best things?
  3. What happens if a believer ignores God's moral will while seeking to discover God's sovereign will for his life?
  4. A barrier to wisdom is spiritual pride. What helps you to remain humble and seeking wisdom from others?
  5. What insight did you gain about your relationship with alcohol from Drew's overview of the biblical teaching on drinking?
  6. How would you like to grow in thankfulness in the rhythms and moments of your life?
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