

Proverbs 23:29-35

Sunday 6/24/2018

Well, I love that song. If you have your Bibles this morning, you are in for it. I want you to know that. Proverbs chapter 23. We are going to close out the chapter today, and we are going to look at the last seven verses. This has been, to me, I think a phenomenal chapter. There have been so many good principles that we have found in it, and yet it closes out these last seven verses, verses 29 through 35. Again, I think it is very fitting to where Proverbs is going and the themes and the sub-themes of Proverbs.

We are going to look at this verse today, and then we are going to get into the time in the Bible. It says in verse 29:

Proverbs 23:29-35

Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We ask Your blessings upon our time today as we go into Your Word and look at this closing passage in the book of Proverbs. We ask Your blessings upon it. We ask, Father, Your Spirit will guide us into things to say, and Lord, take it into the hearts of these, Your people. We love You. We thank You for all that You have done for us in our church and for all the great families and people that You brought our way. Truly, Lord, are the joys of our heart and the joys of our ministry. We will thank You and praise in Jesus' name, for we say, we ask it, Amen.

I. The Context of Drunkenness

Now, if we were to keep this within the context of Proverbs chapter 23, and we will here for a moment, we would see that this drunkenness that they are talking about will be connected to the whorish woman and the religious system that we have talked about a lot lately, the last couple of Thursday nights. We got into it in the Bible Institute yesterday morning, and certainly as we have come through the book of Proverbs, this drunkenness would go back to a religious drunkenness, dealing with the whorish woman, Babylon, the great mystery religion.

In fact, in Revelation chapter 17 verse 2, when we used this verse Thursday night when somebody asked a very good question, it said, talking about Babylon, mystery religion, the mother of Harlots:

Revelation 17:2

With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

Now we know that that is the religious system of Rome. We know that Baal worship in the Old Testament transforms itself into what we have today in the Roman church, and we have talked about that many, many times. This is the direct reference to that in that context.

Now, historically, obviously, Solomon is writing this to his own son, Rehoboam, and he is telling Rehoboam not to go down the road that he went down. Of course, there is a great principle for you. Rehoboam did go down the same road as dad went down, which is a great lesson for all of us that if you want to go down the wrong road, you can tell your kids all day long not to go down that road, and they will go down that road. If you do not want to go down that road, then stay out of the road yourself. That is how it works.

II. The Inspirational Application of Drunkenness

But the inspirational application is without a doubt one of the greatest in all the Bible on drinking and drunkenness. I want to preach this today from an inspirational application, and I want to say at the start that all my life I have worked with men and women who have been addicted to alcohol. I have dealt with them that have been addicted to drugs. I have the utmost respect for men and women who find themselves in that situation but are willing to allow the Word of God and the principles to walk them out. It is easy to walk into sin in your life. It takes a little more time to walk out of it. The problem is, when you get the Word of God, the church, me, and the wonderful people here involved, you can get out very quickly if you are just going to simply—I have the utmost respect for that.

I have never looked at anybody that has been messed up in alcohol or drugs. I am not the kind of pastor that looks at them with disdain or thinks that they are worse than me. I realize that we all have our issues in life. We all have a history to our life, and it is one of those things where we are here to help each other, not to be condescending to each other. So I want you to understand that before I start today. I do not know where you are at. Some of you may be real alcoholics, and some of you may be so high on drugs that your pupils look like pie plates this morning. We are here for you. We do not care. I have said it many, many times. I do not care where you have been, what you have done, what you have been into. I only care of where you want to go from this point forward. That is all that matters to me. That is all that should matter to anybody, but you are going to find in life that is not true.

So we are going to talk about this today, and it is a true statement. When men and women get saved, the Bible says that we get a changed heart. We have talked about this last week, how we get a new heart and all the things that go along with that. When we get saved and we get that new

heart, then as we do what God wants us to do, we get the blessings of God in our life. I want to tell you, if you have ever experienced the blessings of God in your life, there is nothing like it. The very fact that the God of the universe cares about you, that the little things in your life that He wants to do for you.

But I want to tell you this also, and many of you who, all of you who are unsaved at one point in your life, you know this to be true. An unsaved man will deceive himself that in the world there are actual blessings, things that happen that are good in his life, and he thinks that those are good things, those are blessings. Sometimes he even equates it from God, when of course we know that it is not. The worldly blessings that man thinks he has, they are only temporary. They only last for a short time. God's blessings last for all of eternity. They are everlasting. But unsaved people cannot see that. Many times some of God's people cannot see that. They actually deceive themselves to think that the good things in life. I want to tell you, there are some good things in life. Not everything is bad. But a lot of times the bad things that wind up being bad, when we first look at them or get involved in them, we think that there is a blessing found in them for our lives, something that is going to be good. Of course that is not true.

Drinking and getting drunk is one of these that he will deceive himself into thinking that there is some value to it. "Well, I work all day and I am stressed and it helps me relax." "Well, I have personal issues that I am struggling with and I am dealing with, and when I get a few drinks in me or I get drunk, then I do not think about it and my problems do not seem as bad as they actually are." Or many times we think that it makes me socially acceptable. "I can go out with my friends and they accept me and we have a good time and it is fun." In short, an unsaved man will look at something like that and he will think that that is a better replacement than God doing the things that He will do for him in his life.

Let me tell you something. You want to relax, just get in that book. You can be the most stressful person on the planet and then when you read that Bible, it just takes it all away, unless you get one of those chapters in Revelation and you are in the middle of the tribulation period. You got personal issues? Hey, you can go get drunk all you want and drink and get drunk as a skunk if you want to, but you know what, when you come out of that, your problems are still there and they are worse than they were before.

You know, drinking has always been associated with being a man. Maybe not with the older guys who just, they are a good old boy and they just do what good old boys do, but you young kids, I know you young kids, you think that it is like a rite of passage to become a man. Kids in high school, they start smoking cigarettes there or they start drinking there and it is the thing to do because everybody else does it and you want to be part of the crowd and it slowly gets into your world with everything around you that that is really a good time and that is really what a man or a woman does.

You see it graphically displayed all around you on the billboards and on the commercials on TV. You will have a bunch of people out there at a clam bake, nice fire going, clams roasting and nice sea coming in there and they are all around laughing and they are all passing around the Michelob, and everybody is having a good time, good friends, good times and Michelob. Kids in

high school do it, when you get into college, that is the mainstay of getting drunk. You have your frat houses and you have your parties and you do not go to college anymore to get education, you go to college anymore just to have a wild party and do what you want to do.

But we see it in the business world. We see it everywhere. You will take a bunch of clients out to dinner and your bar tab will be more expensive than the food was. I have never understood why you see guys that I see it posted on Facebook all the time. I do not have Facebook, I do not read Facebook, I do not do Facebook, but you keep sending me stuff of people on Facebook which I appreciate. You will be at a ball game someplace, or they will be at a ball game and somebody will say, "Hey, let me take your picture," and I will turn around and hold up a beer. Now why do you have to do that? First of all, it is going to get around the world. You think you would be smart enough to say, "Okay." No, you got to hold it up. You go out to the lake someplace and you are going to water ski or you are going to do something water sports or you are on one of those beginner tubes and you got your beer in your hand because you cannot do anything and they say, "We are going to take your picture," and you are holding on, holding up the beer. Like that means something. In a minute I am going to tell you what it means by the way.

We all think that that is success, that that is what we do. That the world accepts that. That when I get my picture taken I am not really having a good time or I am not really the in-crowd or I am not really an adult or a man if I do not have a beer in my hand. For those of us who spent time in the military, drinking is just a way of life. It is like the rite of passage for a young soldier. Drinking has always been the mainstay of really being a tough soldier. Back in the day in World War II they gave you ammo ration, they gave you a food ration, they gave you a clothing ration and they gave you a beer ration. Drinking and drunkenness has always been viewed as part of our culture.

Today in 2018 and the last waning days of the Laodicean Church age, we now see it moving into Christianity. The neo-evangelical church almost without acceptance and most of those are, a lot of those are former Baptist churches that threw Baptist off their name because they wanted to jump into that gray mush swimming pool called a non-denominational and almost without exception they have taken the position that drinking is okay. Well, I have even seen pastors post pictures of themselves on Facebook drinking a beer and I have seen church leaders at a bar someplace with shot glasses stacked up and they are proud of it.

Now good solid Christians, they look at that and they ask why? I try to figure it out. The answer is simple. Hey, when you lose your Bible, you lose your mind. I will tell you something else, you get into pulpit and take that book apart, you get into your Bible studies and criticize the Word of God and make fun of it, you start messing with God's mind, He is going to start messing with yours. I mean how long ago was it from 1920? Ninety-eight years. Just less than a hundred years ago one man, Billy Sunday, took on the whole United States of America and the drinking and the booze and the corruption and the broken families and the busted lives and single-handedly through the preaching of that book, not an NIV, that book, not an RSV, that book, not an ASV, single-handedly brought about prohibition in this country. Now you know what you are telling me that pastors in a pulpit today, church leaders around the country in these gray mush churches

do not remember who Billy Sunday was. Let me ask you a question, was he wrong? Wow, how far we have come.

When I moved here in 1976, how many of you live in Kansas? You can admit it, it is okay. It is alright really, Kansas is where Dorothy is from, Kansas is where the Wizard of Oz was born before he moved to Oz, the Emerald City is in Topeka Kansas, living proof that hell is full and dead men walk the earth. Now who is from Kansas? When I moved here in 1976, Kansas was still a dry state. You know what that means? It means you could not buy alcohol in Kansas. When you went to a restaurant that served booze, you had to register, the only way you could serve booze in Kansas was to be part of a club. So when you went to a restaurant you had to shine that you were coming part of that club. That is the only way they could do it. You could not buy booze in Kansas. It was a dry state. You know why it was a dry state? Because the preaching of one man. Now you can get it wherever you want. I mean, it is not a dry state anymore and I am glad because I do not want to have to drive across the state line if you live in Kansas to get your...

Now I want to tell you here before I go into this, I have never drank. I have never been drunk. You know it amazes me. When you go to the doctor and you are going to have something seriously done, they always ask you a bunch of personal questions and they will say, "Do you drink?" And I will say, "No." "Have you ever drank?" "No." "Do you smoke?" And I will say, "No." "Have you ever smoked?" "No." "Do you do drugs?" "No." "Have you ever done drugs?" "No." And they look up at me like, "What is wrong with you?" You know what? It is a sad state of affairs where we live in a country that if you have abstained from those things they look at you like there is something wrong with you. I mean get prepared because when you get to heaven those are the first three questions they are going to ask you at the gate.

Now I have never done drugs but I must confess to you I am an addict. In 1 Corinthians 16:15 I talked about the house of Stephanas who was addicted to the ministry. What I am going to show you today is that there are two addictions in this world and there are two types of drunks in this world. Even though I have never been drunk in the world sense I want to tell you this morning I am a drunk and I am an addict.

Years ago I went to Alcoholics Anonymous and I never even drank. I felt I could go there and nobody would know because it is anonymous. I had heard a lot about the 12-step program and I just, I just said, "Hey, I am just here. I want to learn. I want to learn about your program. I deal with people and I may have people to come down here and have to put them in a program." Everybody got up there and they would have a little meeting and then somebody would get up and speak and they all would introduce themselves and they would say, "Hi, my name is Bob. I am an alcoholic." They all went around the room and I went up and I introduced myself and I said, "Hi, I am not an alcoholic. I am a Baptist, but I am not an alcoholic." I explained what I was here for and I will tell you I learned a lot from that and do not misunderstand it. I think Alcoholics Anonymous serves a really good purpose and I am not criticizing them in any way, shape or form. I have had people that were in that that when I got them out of that then I could do something with them so I am not criticizing at all.

But I want to tell you from the Bible, you getting up in any meeting and saying, "I am an alcoholic," you will never get past your alcoholism. That Bible says:

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

If you are saved here this morning, whatever you were before you got saved, you are not that anymore. Until you understand that, that is the difference between the world's system of trying to help you and God's system of trying to help you, you will never get anywhere. You may have been an alcoholic and you may have been in a drug addiction, but I am going to tell you right now the moment you got saved, you are no longer an alcoholic or an addict. You now have within you the power to be an overcomer in your life. I wanted to make that clear.

But I have been around chronic alcoholism all of my life, certainly in my ministry, even before my ministry. I look at, I study words because words in the English language are the key to the Bible, but they are the key to everything. I look at the word alcoholic and that is a combination of two words: alka-holic. Alka-alcohol-holic, wholly given. An alcoholic is someone who is wholly given to alcohol. It is like the word Catholic. Revelation chapter 13 verse 2 talks about Babylon mystery religion Rome of being like a leopard. So you got a Catholic, wholly given to a cat.

I have been around it all my life. I am no stranger to it, even though I have never been drunk, have no plans to get drunk in that sense. I had an uncle, his name was Vernon. He is dead now, died of prostate cancer a number of years ago. Vernon was the youngest brother of my mom. All the other boys were older and they were all in World War II, both my dad's side and my mom's side. But Vernon was too young to get into World War II but he enlisted in the army and went into Korea. He was my favorite uncle and I think at that age in my life, I was enthralled with the military. I was a war baby at a World War II, and all of those things. He was in the army in Korea and I do not know the whole story. I know he won a Bronze Star and a Silver Star. I have heard a little bits of the story how that he had a nervous breakdown. He had a real problem emotionally in the military. He did some great act of valor and one of his best friends took a sniper bullet through the head and blew his brains all over his face in his uniform and he lost it after that. He came home and he could not deal with it and he became a very bad alcoholic.

I remember as a young kid, my mom was always his favorite sister and I was about five or six years old and he would come up and we lived right up from Republic Steel and Timken's, the steel mills was like four blocks away. You know how that he was just lined with bars down there. All the guys come out of work and go get a drink. So he would hang out down at those bars and he would come up to our house. He would be so drunk he would stagger, he could not walk. I remember one time he came to our house and he wanted my mom to give him some more beer and my mom said, "We do not have any beer here." Then he started arguing with her about, "I know you got beer, give me some beer." So she gave him a tall glass of water. He drank the water down and thought it was beer. Never knew it was water. He was a real alcoholic. I remember coming in the house one time, blood draping everywhere. He had gotten a fight down in a bar

someplace. Somebody cut him with a knife. I mean, I have been around it all of my life. I have seen it.

In the army, I was stationed at Fort Devens, Massachusetts for a while and I played the trumpet and so I had a real blessing and a real privilege to be able to travel around all of New England and I blew taps for all the boys that were, while I was there, for all the boys that were killed in Vietnam. I blew taps for the only general that was killed in Vietnam. Got a citation or a letter of commendation for it. It was the weirdest thing I ever saw in my life. This general got killed in Vietnam. He was from someplace in Massachusetts and I was up there on the hill and I did not know that they had towed in 21 howitzers behind me. You give them a 21 gun salute with cannons and they were behind the hill here and I was standing here and I got my signal and with the, they out there, I am talking over the guy, saw the lieutenant down there pull everybody to attention and all of a sudden from behind me these cannons, I blew my hat right off man. I picked up my hat, got it back on and then blew taps and they will tell you but I, it was one of the greatest times of my life of getting over there.

But I will tell you something, I was the only designated, always a designated driver to get back home. These guys got drunk as a skunk when it was over. The VFW always showed up and then you know what happens from there? They invite the rifle squad and the burial squad back to the VFW hall, free booze. The lieutenant was crocked, the sergeants were crocked, all the guys were crocked. I was the only one and normally when a lieutenant would come up you would say, "Yes sir." This lieutenant would come up and he would say, "Go on, drive us home, Bob, drive us home." They all get in the back, some of them would throw up. I had one rule, if you throw up, throw over the backseat that goes into that little crawl space back there, not toward the driver. There were drunks all over the place. They would get just plastered.

We went in a restaurant one time, I could not believe it. We went to restaurant one time and they were all and the lieutenant before we left he would line everybody up and do an inspection and he would come back there and a captain would come out and a captain would say, "Look, your guys are going to bury this boy that was killed in Vietnam." He says, "I am telling you right now, if anybody in this rifle squad gets too much to drink and you start putting moves on the widow, your is mine," because it happened. It happened. We were in a restaurant one time and we were sitting there and they were drunk talking and laughing and this waitress come up and back then she had all of her tips in one of those little things you wear around your waist that people would put on the table. One of the guys, I do not know what he did, he said something to her, he touched her or he slapped her or she pinched her and she hauled off and slapped him. He stood up and hit her right between the eyes. She flew over the table and the money in her bags went all over the floor. All the other guys are down on their knees. Somebody, I am sitting over there saying, "Oh God, I got to drive these guys home. I just find a big get someplace, jump out as the engine is running and let him go down over the hill."

I never wanted to be part of that. To me, I do not know a soldier and I know but to me a real soldier was with somebody who trained hard, fought hard and was a professional at what he did and I just did not want to be part of that. My mindset back in that day and it has changed a lot but my mindset back in the day was be trained by the best, be the best, travel to far exotic places,

experience great new cultures, meet all kind of interesting people and then kill them. That was our mindset back then. Mess with the best, you die like the rest. That is how I viewed things back then. All this getting drunk and staggered around and all this stuff, I just never understood it.

III. The World's "Blessings" of Drunkenness

Then one day years later because those guys actually thought that that was a good time, that in some strange fermented sense that was a blessing. Years later I found in Proverbs chapter 23 where we are at today, 29 through 35, the 10 blessings of getting drunk from the world's standpoint. I want to start now, I want to walk you through these 10 so-called blessings that you find and when it goes up against this great verse in Proverbs.

Now the first one is this, verse 29 and it says:

1. Woe

I want to tell you that drinking will not solve your problems. Drinking will not take away your woes. The woes you got in your life were because of the fact that you did not do what God told you to do with your life. So therefore you think the escape, not running to God but running to the alcohol. Woe in your life is always a compounding effect. You drink to drown out your issues that try to get away from them. It is a temporary fix. Your woes are not going anywhere by you pretending they are not there and then in liberating yourself to the place that you do not think about it.

The second great blessing from this is in verse 29 again it is:

2. Sorrow

Looking back in your life as an alcoholic with lost kids, failed marriages, lost jobs, financial ruin, obviously health issues, all the things that that kind of lifestyle which you think when you are going through, "Wow, what a great time we are having," but at the end of sorrow.

He says in verse 29, verse 3:

3. Contention

That can range anywhere from like my uncle Vernon getting in a fight at a bar, get your thumb cut off almost, or fighting with your spouse, your inability to control your stronghold which leads to problems in the family. It leads to irresponsibility and the kids seeing it and everybody being under the stress of it and you actually think that it is a good thing and it is a blessing.

Also in 29 the fourth thing is:

4. Babbling

You say some of the stupidest stuff you ever heard in your life.

The fifth thing in verse 29 here it is:

5. Wounds without cause

Now that not only that, that translates wounds to others. People become the innocent victims of your intoxication. Your kids, your wife or your or your husband, your moms and your dads, other innocent people. I mean, you know how many times a year some drunk crosses left the center and hits a family in a car and kills them all and then he survives. They were just going to the store. They were coming home from the movie. They went to the playground. They are driving home and they are laughing and they are talking and they come around the corner and there is some drunk who goes left the center because he is blipped out of his mind. He hits him head on. He sends him out into eternity. But they always survive.

Verse 29 the sixth thing:

6. Redness of eyes

The morning after hangover. The eyes made red with drunkenness. You know in Christianity there was a time when God's people's eyes were red because of the tears they were shedding for their lost friends that they wanted to get saved. Now they are read through the blurriness of our times in our Bible studies where we have our wine testing tasting contest. What a blessing, a bleary eyed Christian.

Verse 33 gives us the seventh thing:

7. Thine eye shall behold strange women

This will be your bar hopping, having a few drinks here, checking out the livestock, moving on to the next one, getting a head up on everything by getting there for happy hour. Happy hour and you start checking it out and then you know you are looking for the woman of your dreams or the man of your dreams and when you find her, "Wow, look at her!" And I will tell you, "Look at him!" If you find a spouse in a place like that you better look twice. But I will tell you the greatest thing about this is obviously the more you drink the better she looks. That is a blessing.

The eighth thing:

8. Your heart shall utter perverse things

Drunkenness will bring out the depth of sin in our hearts. We will say and do terrible things. You will react and hit your kids, abuse your spouse. It will, you will say terrible things that later down the line you wish you could take back but once you say it you cannot.

The ninth one into verse 34:

9. One that lieth down in the midst of the sea or on the top of a mast

Have you ever been on a rough rolling sea in a boat? You get seasick. That is what being drunk is like. That is if you ever try to walk down a pitching deck, boy you are going sideways and in this way that boat is rocking back and forth and 30 foot waves and you are hanging on to the guardrail and you are trying to walk a straight thing there. That old boat just going like this and going like that. You try to roll, try to eat, you put your cup down here and the cup slide down to

the end. You got to grab it all. Why on some of those ships they have wood things cut out on the table so you can put your cup so when the ship rolls food does not. That is like being drunk, sick as a dog. As close as I ever got to being drunk would never drink and was having a bad case of vertigo. Room spinning. I mean I threw up 85 times in 24 hours one time in the hospital for four days with it and best doctors and care ever had. The Valium was not bad either.

Verse 32 says at the last when it is all said and done:

10. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder

An adder, one of the most poisonous snakes on the planet. At the end what you think is a good lifestyle, a blessing, a fun time, a happy time, winds up killing you or killing your family or killing your kids. There have been many, many a man and woman who have drunk themselves to death and wound up dead physically, emotionally and spiritually dead.

Then the 10th one verse 35:

> They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not.

You are feeling no pain. You can get my uncle when he came in with his hand would bleed on it. He did not even know it. He is just there. "Whoa, I do not know." He did not even know what happened. Why if that would have happened to me or you, we would have been crying and squawking. Oh, he did not even know. He did not even know it. I do not even, I think he even thought about it. My mom wrapped a towel around that, I remember, put it under the sink and the blood was just gushing everywhere. Wrapped a towel around it. You know what? He went on his way.

After all of these blessings, after all of these things that we think in our lives are going to make us happy, after all these 10 things that he defines so clearly, we see Proverbs chapter 26 verse 11 because verse 35 says of this passage here:

Proverbs 26:11

As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.

You never get past it. You never learn the lessons. All you want to do is go through these 10 things. They are miserable. You get sick as a dog and then the next night, next weekend, you are right back at it again.

2 Peter chapter 2 verse 22:

2 Peter 2:22

But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Wow, 10 great blessings of the world's viewpoint of being drunk, the deception of the world system seducing men and women to the place that they actually believe that the world will take care of them better than God will.

IV. Parallels Between Drunkenness and Christianity

Years ago I had a dad who had a troublesome son and the son was rebellious. He did not want to do what was right and he was like most kids and I have seen it replaced a hundred times over my years. He did not want to obey mom and dad. He did not want to do the rules. He did not want to do what was done but he wanted mom and dad to provide a place for him to sleep. He wanted to do his own thing and live his own life and not pay attention or obey the rules but he wanted mom and dad to feed him. He wanted mom and dad to do his clothes and his laundry. Dad came to him, I was sitting in the meeting, we tried to help this kid and dad said, "Look, you do not get it but you are going to get it. Here is the bottom line. You see this house, God gave me this house. You see the food in the kitchen and the furniture and the car in the garage, God gave us those things." He says, "I am telling you something, I am not going to take what God gave us and give it to you and the devil." Here is the thing son, "If the devil is so good to serve and he is so worth serving then you let him take care of you." That was a sound piece of theological advice.

Yet I got to tell you, there are some great lessons that I have learned from hanging out and observing drunks over the years. I find for me some great parallels between being a drunk and being a Christian. I mean, have you ever seen this, booze is called spirits. Now you drink those spirits as a child of God. I drink the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

We both have our spirits. Yours is spirits, mine is the true one, the Spirit of God. But we both drink them. I will tell you something else I have noticed over the years, booze will put you under its influence. You start partaking of those spirits, it will get control of you and pretty soon you will be under the influence. I will tell you something, when you start drinking to the Spirit that I drink, you will get under its influence.

Deuteronomy chapter 32 talks about two rocks, two vines, two wine, two cups. There are two cups in the Bible. There is a God's cup and there is a devil's cup. Most of God's people think that you can be a Christian and still drink out of the devil's cup. Hey, 1 Corinthians chapter 10 verse 21 says:

1 Corinthians 10:21

Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

One or the other. Proverbs chapter 23:29-35 talking about the cup of devils.

Now here is what I learned. A saved man, when you get saved, a saved man does not stop drinking. A saved man just changes bottles. He just changes spirit that he drinks. He changes the spirit by which he allows to control him, to consume him, to influence him. Now it says for the world it says spirit plural because there are many spirits that will dominate you and control you.

A lying spirit, spirit of fornication, spirit of stealing, spirit of deception. There are all kinds of. But when it comes to the bottle that God wants you tonight to drink of, it is only one Spirit. It is God's Spirit.

Now I observe everything. I learned many, many years ago that it is better to keep your mouth shut and keep your eyes open. Watch what is going on around you. Look around, look behind, look ahead. I want to show you the parallels between being a drunk and under the influence of the devil's cup and being a child of God under the influence of God's Spirit and His cup. Real quick, there are five of them.

Now take your Bibles for a moment and turn to Ephesians chapter 5 and I want to give you a great verse. Look at Ephesians chapter 5 and look at verse 18:

Ephesians 5:18

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Now let me clarify that. In excess is the clause found in 1 Timothy chapter 5 verse 23 because I know somebody is going to hit you with that. "Be not drunk with wine wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit." Now I do not know what you know about the English language but right after that one phrase there the word excess you have a semicolon and in English grammar a semicolon is used to link the related words as they define each other. So you will want to watch colons and semicolons in the Bible. It says here and I want you to notice how that the word he uses the word drunk to explain the word filled. To be drunk is to be filled with something. To be drunk is to be filled with something and be under its influence. Every child of God should be under the influence of the Spirit of the holy God and you should be filled and drunk with that Spirit. You as a child of God ought to be totally intoxicated this morning with that book. Addiction and alcohol and drunkenness in Christianity is okay as long as just the addiction to the ministry and the drunkenness is the Spirit of God that you are filled with.

Now I as I clearly want and I have told you before, I am an addict and I am a drunk. I am addicted to the ministry and I am drunk on this book. I want to give you five ways here in the waning moments of this sermon how a Christian should be like a drunk. I want to show you the characteristics of a drunk from the world standpoint of the devil's cup and I want to show you how it translates into you and me as a child of God what it ought to be for us when we drink and get intoxicated with God's cup.

V. Five Characteristics of a Spirit-Filled Christian

Now when a man is drunk, worldly man, we are going to put it in a worldly context first. When a man gets drunk of the devil's cup and he is under the influence of spirits, and you have all seen this, there is an incredible boldness about him. You ever know when a guy gets drunk he will, he will suddenly not be afraid of anything or anybody. He can be the littlest guy in the bar and he will pick a fight with the biggest guy there. He thinks he can whip the whole world. He will be there and he will be liberated and be drunk and some big old guy will be there and make some smart crack about the girl he is with or himself or whatever the case may be and that little guy

five foot nothing will stand up to that six foot 300 pound guy like he is David and Goliath. You know why? Because when you get under the influence of the devil's cup and you lose influence of yourself, you do stupid things like being bold when you should not be.

11. Boldness

I want to tell you something that is the same boldness that you and I should have as a child of God when we get filled with the Spirit of God. There ought to be a boldness about God's people. We got too many of God's people. We used to sing a song, "Onward Christian Soldiers," and we still sing it here. Most churches do not. You know why? Because they got too many conscientious objectors in the choir. There needs to be a boldness that we should have as a Christian when we are up against the bullies of life and some of those bullies will be lost and some of those bullies will be saved. Taking a stand because you are under the influence of God's Spirit where normally you would be timid. Hey, I have watched some of you guys when you came in here, some of you gals too. You were nice little feminine girls and I like that. You were all lacy and all nicey and you all very prim and proper and you still are but somewhere along the line you grew the teeth of a junkyard dog. I have watched some of you gals stand up for that book. I have watched some of you tell them where to get off. I have watched some of you guys come in here and now when you get the Bible in you and you get intoxicated with that book, you get a boldness. You are not afraid of anybody. Most of God's people are cowards when it comes to standing up for God and His Word. I like this little phrase we always say, "Well, we can agree to disagree." You are out of your mind. I am not going to agree to disagree with you about nothing. I am going to pull out my sword. I am going to cut your head off. Then I am going to cut your arms off. Then I am going to cut your legs off. Then I am going to gut you like a deer. We are not going to agree on nothing. There is right and there is wrong. The Bible is right and you are wrong. That is where I am at. I only have one rule I follow in this kind of boldness: no quarter asked and no quarter given. You ought to get to the place of your life you do not care what degrees he has got behind his name, how big his church is, what he thinks he is. You take him on. Stand for that book because that book when you get under the influence of it gives you a boldness.

12. Uncontrolled Talking and Singing

Second thing, I will tell you something else, when a man gets under the influence of the devil's cup, he cannot keep his mouth shut. He is always talking and he is always singing. You ever notice that? You take the meekest, quietest person alive and get him under the influence of booze and you will not be able to shut him up. The spirits loosen his tongue. You cannot shut him up. He will just babble away all the time and he will sing on control of it. "Show me the way to go home. I am tired and I got to go to bed. I had a little drink about an hour ago and it went right to my head. Oh, wherever I will roam, over land or sea or foam, you can know I will always be singing this song, show me the way to go home." All the time. Everybody, "Show me." How about this one? "99 bottles of beer on the wall, 99 bottles of beer. 99 bottles of beer on the wall, 99 bottles of beer. 98 bottles of beer on the wall, 98 bottles of beer. 98 bottles of beer on the wall, 90 bottles of beer. 97 bottles of beer." You are going to get down through the whole stinking 100 of them. When you get drunk, you sing. You sing and control me. When I was in the army, "Oh,

we kissed the general's daughter, drank the colonel's beer, threw the major in the..." I cannot finish that song.

One time I was over with Norm, Norm Buseman, who was a missionary in Germany. I think you were with me, Terry. He took us down to, you know, in Europe, in Germany, anyhow, they really drink beer. The beer you drink over here is what, 3.2? It is 15 over there, is not it, Terry? Now you get a little can of beer here or a little bottle. Their beer mugs are like that. Oh yeah, you know, Sam. Yeah, yeah, yeah, I know. So he said, you know, it was a cultural experience. We did not drink but he took us down and I, it was the funnest time of my life. I have never been anything like that in my life. Here was a big hall four times larger than this with a band playing, a polka band or a German band and it was 500 people in there with big beer mugs and it is called an Off-Bro House and they are swaying back and forth, drunk as could be, beer slopping everywhere and they are saying, "I am lying down all fine house, I am swag," and the whole place is swaying, man.

When a guy gets drunk, he cannot keep his mouth shut and he sings on control. You know why some of you do not sing here? Here it comes. You know why we have a church service and old Zach gets up here, Danny gets up here and they sing these songs and you know why you do not sing? You are under the wrong influence. You are back there visiting, showing pictures of the big fish you caught which is somebody else's pictures that you want us to believe in yours. You are visiting back there running around doing everything, run into the bathroom again. Hey, you want to let what is in your heart?

Psalms 40:3

And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

You let out the singing. Colossians 4:6 says:

Colossians 4:6

Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

You answer your mouth. You are always talking. You are always laying it out. You are always looking at a guy who was drunk. You cannot shut him up and he will talk forever and you ought to be ready. The Bible says in 1 Peter 3:15:

1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

When you sing to the Lord, man, you ought to sing. I will tell you what, you were drunk this morning and I got to tell you, I told you, ruin my, I am having, you guys were singing this morning. I could not find anybody that was not. But you ought to be ready. You ought to be so elaborated under the Spirit of God and drunk that all you can focus on is not shutting up. There

are opportunities all around you. Going to work tomorrow morning, "Hey Bob, how is the world treating you?" "World treating me terrible but boy the Lord treating me good." "Hey, what is up Bob?" "New Jerusalem, Revelation chapter 21." "Oh, oh yeah, yeah, yeah." "How you doing?" "I am doing a lot better than I deserve." Stick them. No, here is what you do. "How you doing today?" "Uh, my back is really bothering me and yeah, I just, yeah, I am doing all right. Yeah, I am doing okay. It is Monday. I am just doing, I am just yeah, okay, I am sure I ask." Do not sit down. Put him in his cubicle and wrap it in tin foil and put a big block on the door.

13. Affected Walk

I will tell you the third thing, when a man is under the influence it will affect his walk. The three characteristics of a Christian should be you look different, you talk different and you walk different. Now when you get under the influence of booze as a as a person, the devil's world, in that world he sends, it will affect your walk. That is why when you get pulled over for a DWI, either used to anyhow, they will have these little traps. Joe sets them up all the time. They will pass you out of the car and no state trooper will bring you over the piss driver bring you over and he knows you are drunk and that is another thing, everybody else knows you are drunk, you do not know you are drunk. So you know what they will do? "I told you I was not drunk. I am pretty good, huh?" When you get intoxicated by the world, you cannot walk a straight line. I want to tell you something, when you get talked with it and talked there with that book, you cannot walk anything but a straight line. It affects your walk.

There are two ways to walk. There is God's way and there is the world's way. Matthew chapter 7 verse 13 and 14 says:

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

You got to walk a straight line. We talk about all the time, you know how that in the last days that we are in, I have used that military expression before that, you know, when you get into a rear guard action and you are the last people that are holding everything so everybody else can escape and you were the sacrificial lamb so to speak. If you know whether it is a squad or a platoon or a battalion, you are left there to hold everything together so everybody else can escape to fight another day. I tell you, I use that in the concept of Christianity because, you know, when it really gets bad and it is, it is, they are coming all over the place and, you know, you are scared and you want to run and you, you want to, you want to get out of there and, and, you know, you are probably not. It is those NCOs walking up the line behind you and you hear that command loud, clear and distinct, "Hold the line! Hold the line! We got to hold the line!" And then you hunker down and you hold the line. I tell you all the time that that is what Christians ought to be doing in these last days. We ought to be holding the line. But I want to tell you something, you cannot hold the line until you walk the line. That is the key.

14. Desire to Share

Well the fourth thing I have learned, when you are under the influence, you want to share your bottle with everybody. You will go someplace just with two or three people and you will have three Coors for a beer just for the people that do not have one. When you are bumping into them, "Have a cold one." Hey, you go to a tailgate party in a Chiefs game and you are walking down through there with a smoke up and you start talking to people, you will have all the booze offered to you that you can have. You know why? When people get drunk, they want to share the bottle. Being under the influence of God's Spirit will make you happy and complete and you will want to share with everybody what you got. The gospel means good news but you got to get drunk with the Spirit and intoxicated and get under the influence before you feel good about doing that.

Back in Exodus chapter 12, you have Israel coming out of Egypt and it is such an incredible picture of the gospel of Jesus Christ that it has been called the gospel according to Exodus. This is a chapter where they have been down in Egypt and now they are coming out of Egypt and going to the land God promised them but they only get out of Egypt by putting the blood of a lamb on the door and that blood of lamb on the door was when the, when the death angel came over, he passed over them. That is why from that point on it was called the Passover. There was a situation where, you know, that you went to bed that night, you had to kill a lamb. The lamb is a picture of Christ, the male first thing to the flock, no blemish, all that stuff. You took that, took that blood and you put it on the, you put it on the door post and you put it on the top and it covered and he said, "When I see the blood, when I see the blood, I will pass, I will pass over you." There is a song in our hymnal, "When I See the Blood," and that lamb is a beautiful picture. In fact, it is such a perfect picture of the gospel, it is unbelievable.

When you come down in Exodus chapter 12 verse 3 it talks about the fact that every man needed a lamb and then when he goes into the next verse 4 it talks about that every man not only needed a lamb but he needed, and then he says the lamb. When he comes down to verse 5 and he talks about it some more he says your lamb. It is a progression: a lamb, the lamb and your lamb. Only Bible in the history of planet Earth in Exodus chapter 12:3 follows the gospel. You see the first thing you need for your sin is a lamb but not any lamb will do. You need the lamb but having a lamb and the lamb will not solve your problems. You need to make that lamb your lamb.

Exodus 12:4

And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

You know what he is saying? Good advice for you and for me, if you are saved, share the lamb with your neighbor. When you come under the influence of God's spirits, when you come under the intoxicating effect of a new walk and a new life and a song in your heart, you got to share the bottle with somebody else. You got to tell them, give them what is good, show them what is real.

15. Need for a Designated Driver

Then the last thing, when you are really under the influence and you are really drunk, now you can hardly walk which is where every Christian ought to be by the way. You need a designated driver. You need a designated driver because you will never get home by yourself without hurting somebody or hurting yourself. You will wind up killing yourself or killing somebody else or you are doing some great property damage. Drunks should never drive. They will kill themselves or somebody else. As I said, vehicular manslaughter 500 times a year. They need a designated driver and it is the same way with you and me. My designated driver in my life is the Word of God and its principles. I know where I will wind up if I drive myself through life and you ought to know where you know or if you come out of the world you know where it got you. You know that driving your own car and getting through life your way, you know what it got you. At some point in your life you have to get so alleviated, so under the influence, so filled with the Spirit and drunk of the Spirit that you just say, "God, I need a dedicated driver. I cannot drive myself through this life anymore."

I pulled up to light the other day and there was a guy in front of me. He had a bumper sticker on his car and it said, "God is my co-pilot," which is based on the movie back of an actual guy who fought with the Flying Tigers. I was intrigued at that point so I could up around him the next light and pull up next to him on his side. Look over at the moment I saw him, it was absolutely totally obvious that God was not the pilot. God does not want to be your co-pilot. He does not want to sit in the second seat. He wants to sit in the main seat and He wants to drive you home. The world will never get you home safely. God is your designated driver, will always get you home safely. He will get you where you need to be. It is just that simple.

You know, so when you have a designated driver, it takes the danger out of the out of the trip. You do not have to worry about, you do not have to worry about the road signs and how they change, especially if you are drunk because they put road signs up as you drive home and if you are drunk you cannot see it. I much rather the Holy Spirit of God, my designated driver, show me the road signs in the Bible and I stay away from them. I mean there are times when you are driving that stop, that sign says stop and you better stop. There are times when that road sign or you will come around a corner or get to a corner and it will have a reducing speed. It will say slow down and if you think that you can still go 65, 70, you will be on your top. There are times that you will go up there, you are driving down there and its sign says curves ahead. You young guys better watch out for that one. Sometimes you see the sign that says construction, slow down. That is a good one because when God is building you through discipleship and training you in discipleship too, when you are learning the Bible, you need to slow down a little bit. They are all good. You should not always say that is good, that is good. What the other three was not.

Sometimes you are driving down that road and you see a sign that says fresh oil. Boy, we all need that one, do not we? Every day the renewing of the Holy Spirit of God in our life. The fresh oil keeps us going. Sometimes you are going down the road and you have second thoughts and you want to go back and then you will see a sign that says no U-turn. There will be times in your life that you want to quit and you want to go back and then that Holy Spirit of God who is your designated driver will pick up the sign that says, "Uh-uh, no U-turn." But I will tell you the one that is my favorite is a sign that says you can turn right on red because I know from my

designated driver that He sits on the right hand of God the Father and every time the red light in my life starts flashing, I am turning right and going to the throne. You see, my designated driver will get me home safely. Your designated driver will get you in the ditches of life. You will start out on the road and then you will be a gutter ball. You will be on one side or the other and you will be stuck in the ditch of life and at three or four o'clock in the morning nobody is going to come and help you.

Now you can see how all this fits together. The first thing you can do is you can see how the world looks at the world and the world looks at the world together. The parallels between what a great passage this is, the 10 so-called blessings that the world looks at and living for the world and the things that go with it. Now you can see that there are two spirits in the world. One of them is the spirits of what you drink. The other one is the Spirit of God what you drink of. Now you see there are two cups. There is the Lord's cup and there is the devil's cup. Now you see there is God influence you and intoxicate you and take over your life and direct you or you let the world do it. You either go God's way or you go your way. One will get you home safely to heaven. The other gets you killed in a head-on crash with the world.

The Proverbs chapter 20 verse 29 to 35 was one of the greatest defining passages in all the Bible on the influences that we allow in our life that many times we do not even see, do not even pay attention and that is because the world has portrayed him as such great things. You see the Bible teaches one great truth among thousands of great truths but if the Bible could be boiled down in a practical way to one thing for you and me it would be this: everything that glitters is not always gold. The world will betray itself in a glittering fashion and if you do it this way, do this to this, take this, partake of this, get under this influence, while your life will be wonderful. Party, party, party, party, party time, all of the parties, all of the women, all of this, all of that. Yet you turn around a corner, it is somebody point your life and it is a head-on collision with the world. But when you give your influence over to the Holy Spirit of God and He takes that and He becomes a designated driver of your life and He leads and guides you into all truth, He does nothing in your life that will hurt you. He only does in your life what will help you. If there is anything in my life I have learned, I have learned that most of the things that I do in my life will hurt me. Most everything that He does in my life will never hurt me. The job of you and me is to make Him the designated driver and let Him drive and let Him take care of everything and you sit back there and fellowship with Him.

We will hold up there and let us have a word of prayer. We will be dismissed. Make sure you sign up for