Living Worthy of My Calling, Pt. 16
"Be Filled with the Spirit"

Ephesians 5:18

To live in a manner worthy of my calling,
the old life with its fleshly excesses and waste is to be put off,
and a new life of power in the Spirit is to be enjoyed.

1. A Life No longer Wasted

A Great Contrast!

"And do not be drunk with wine,
"drunk" Wycliffe transl: "filled with wine"
"dissipation" ="excess," "wastefulness"
"riotous living"
cf. the prodigal son Lk. 15:13
"he squandered his estate with loose living" NASV

in which is dissipation,
but be filled with the Spirit."

The Apostle wishes to contrast the life these believers knew in the past with their new life in Christ

(1) A controlled and ordered life vs. a life in which one has lost control

- the life of the drunkard: loss of direction, motivation; there is increased disorder, chaos
- contrast: the fruit of the Spirit: self-control – an ordered life

(2) A life in which the noblest elements are elevated & strengthened
vs. a life in which base desires are elevated and noble elements dulled

- alcohol is not a stimulant – it is a depressant
- the one who is drunk has his senses dulled cf. Prov. 23:29-33

(3) A productive life vs. a life of wastefulness

(4) An energized life vs. a life that is sapped of its vitality, exhausted

- various ways in which those of the world seek to stimulate themselves,
  but such "stimulants" only leave the life exhausted

- the Holy Spirit does not exhaust us! He gives power and life!

2. A Life of Superior Delights

- Enjoyment of food and wine is presented in the Scriptures
  as a figure of the blessedness of the soul which finds delight in God - cf. Prov. 9:1ff
- The Apostle intends at least *some similarity* between intoxication with wine
  and the condition of being filled with the Spirit
- cf. Pentecost "they are full of sweet wine!"

(1) The Christian life is not merely a "collection of negatives"

- not a mere negative morality!
- a full and beautiful life!

(2) The Christian life is an exhilarating, stimulating life (it is real life!)

- The Spirit of God stimulates in the highest sense of the term
- He stimulates the mind, the intellect (historically, very clearly demonstrated)
- He stimulates the heart, the emotions

(3) The Christian life is a life which is happy, blessed, full

- cf. v.19 "singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"

(4) The Christian life is a life of true and deep shared delight in relationships - *conviviality*

- cf. v.19 "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs"
  v. 20 "submitting to one another in the fear of God"

Further Application