# Material for Ephesians 5:18

Eph 5:18

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

# Context clues for Ephesians 5:18

The main message of the book of Ephesians is that the body may know the wealth of blessings it has in Christ, so that the body will walk in a manner in keeping with this calling.

Ephesians 4-6 is about the walk of the body of Christ.

The general statement that provides the pattern for walking:

Eph 4:20-24

20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

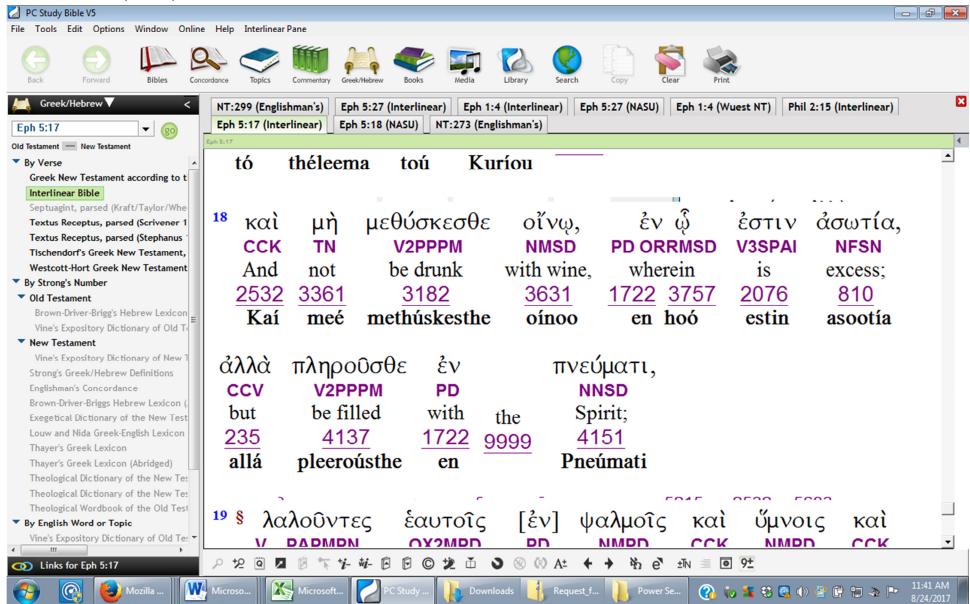
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The local neighborhood is how to walk (and not to walk):

Eph 5:15-21

15 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.

# Interlinear entry for Ephesians 5:18



Lexicon entries for "led captive" and "captivity"

# For "dissipation"

NT:810

 $\dot{\alpha}\sigma\omega\tau\dot{\alpha}$  asotia (as-o-tee'-ah)

behavior which shows lack of concern or thought for the consequences of an action - 'senseless deeds, reckless deeds, recklessness.'

μημεθύσκεσθε οἴνω, ἐν ῷ ἐστιν ἀσωτία 'do not get drunk with wine, for that results in reckless deeds' Eph 5:18.

(from Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain.)

### From BDAG:

Wastefulness, reckless abandon, debauchery, dissipation, profligacy, wild living.

The original meaning is a. "incurable", to be hopelessly sick.
b. "one who by his manner of life, esp. by dissipation, destroys himself";
(from Theological Dictionary of the New Testament)

#### For "be filled"

The Greek word for "be filled" is the second person **plural**, **present**, **passive imperative** of the Greek verb **pleroo**.

NT:4137  $\pi\lambda\eta\rho\acute{o}\omega$  pleroo fill completely, fulfill, NT:4137 (bring to completion, realize (from Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament.)

### From BDAG:

According to the Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature (BDAG), the word *pleroo* has the following meanings:

### 1. To make full

- 2. To complete a period of time
- 3. To bring to completion that which was already begun; finish
- 4. To bring to a designed end, fulfill
- 5. To bring to completion an activity in which one has been involved from the beginning
- 6. Or simply, complete

### Grammatical consideration

"with the Spirit"

The Greek prepositional phrase is *en pneumati* . Here, *pneumati* is in the <u>dative</u> case.

Now, "with the Spirit" implies that the Spirit is the content and we are being filled with the Spirit. It is very unlikely that this is the meaning of this phrase however.

The reasons are quite technical, so let me borrow the explanation from the footnote to this verse in the NET Bible:

Many have taken *en pneumati* as indicating content, ie, one is to be filled with the Spirit. However, there are no other examples in biblical Greek in which *en* + the dative after *pleroo* indicates content. Rather, they customarily appear in the genitive case.

With *pneumati* appearing in the dative here, it indicates **agency or means**, and should be translated "by" or "by means of".

In other words, the Spirit <u>cannot</u> be the <u>content</u> of a filling in Ephesians 5:18.

Instead, the Spirit is the <u>agent</u> performing the <u>pleroo</u>, or <u>the means</u> by which <u>pleroo</u> is being performed. And we have now seen that <u>pleroo</u> means to bring to

completion. The Spirit is bringing us to completion. We are being brought to completion by means of the Spirit.

en pneumati is best translated "by the Spirit".

# Englishman's Concordance for pleroo in Paul's letters

Rom 1:29

Rom 8:4

Rom 13:8

Rom 15:13

Rom 15:14

Rom 15:19

2 Cor 7:4

2 Cor 10:6

Gal 5:14

# Eph 1:22-23

22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who **fills** all in all.

# Eph 3:14-19

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,

16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may **be filled up** to all the fullness of God.

Eph 4:9-10

9 (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He **might fill** all things.)

### Eph 5:18

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, 1

Phil 1:11

**Phil 2:2** 

Phil 4:18

Phil 4:19

Col 1:9-12

9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you **may be filled** with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

#### Col 1:25

25 Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I **might fully carry out** the preaching of the word of God,

#### Col 2:9-10

9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, 10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

# Col 4:12

12 Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bondslave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and **fully assured** in all the will of God.

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Col 4:12

12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and **complete** in all the will of God.

# KJV

Col 4:17

17 Say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

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2 Thess 1:11

2 Tim 1:4

What is the Spirit's ministry to believers, according to the letters of Paul and the gospel of John? [Discussion]

Space for your notes: