

# Messages from Revelation 8 of 16

## *His Spirit*

#0469

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—June 22, 1973

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit” Ephesians 5:18.

In our last vesper service, we were studying the announcement of the second angel in Revelation 14:8:

“Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication” Revelation 14:8.

The fall of Babylon is due to her fermented wine, her perversion of truth, which she communicates to the nations. Now against this, God warns His people and all who will listen: be not drunk with wine, but be filled with the Spirit.

We are living in a time when everybody in this world will be fully under the influence of Babylon’s wine, or completely out from under its influence, filled with the Spirit. The Latter Rain is coming in wonderful power upon those whose hearts and minds and lives have been emptied of all Babylon’s influence.

We were studying last Friday night about just what alcohol is, how it got started and what its influence is. I referred to something that is found in the book, *Temperance*:

“Satan gathered the fallen angels to together to devise some way of doing the most possible evil to the human family. One proposition after the other was made, until finally Satan himself thought of a plan. He would take the fruit of the vine, also wheat, and other things given by God as food, and would convert them into poisons, which would ruin man’s physical, mental, and moral powers, and so overcome the senses that Satan should have full control. Under the influence of liquor men would be led to commit crimes of all kinds. Through perverted appetite the world would be made corrupt. Satan has succeeded in turning the world from God. The blessings provided in God’s love and mercy he has turned into a deadly curse” *Temperance*, page 12.

So alcohol is of the Devil. It is the device of Satan. It is a perversion of a gift of God. Chemically, alcohol is the result of breaking down the sugar molecule in the

juice of the grape or apple or any other fruit. Ethyl alcohol is the result of fermentation in which life-giving food is changed into death-dealing poison. Who but the Devil could think of something like that?

Satan has not limited himself to ethyl alcohol. In a thousand other ways through various drug poisons, nicotine and tobacco, through the caffeine in coffee or tea and the cola drinks, and through many of the things that are being used today, Satan is benumbing the brains of men. He is dulling the senses. He is working here in the forebrain to dethrone reason, conscience, and judgment. And thus, with the governing power asleep in the human soul, Satan takes over and uses the lower nature to control the actions of men. In Jeremiah 51:7, the scripture tells us:

“Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD’S hand,  
that made all the earth drunken: the nations have  
drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad”  
Jeremiah 51:7.

The nations are insane. Those who are under the influence of alcohol or any of these other poisons do not act rationally. In fact, we are told:

“When drink is in reason is out” *Temperance*, page 30.

This is true whether it comes out of a whiskey bottle, a wine cup, a coffee cup, a glass of tea, a bottle of cola drink, or any of these other many poisons. All the influence is to interfere with the function of the forebrain.

Why do people take these poisons into the body? Because the great enemy has discovered *how* to destroy man, and in the process, make him feel like he’s being given a life, or given relief from worry, or given some fun. The action of all these drug poisons, in one way or another, is to give a man a feeling that he enjoys.

But now watch, and don’t miss this: This feeling is due to fiction. The feeling is not based on reality. It is the result of putting to sleep certain cells in the brain so that as the result, people *think* something is happening when it’s not happening at all.

When I was just a boy selling magazines in San Diego, California, I saw a group of newsboys following a fellow into a candy store and boy-like, I went along. This fellow was saying to the clerk and to all these newsboys, “Give these boys some candy. Give everyone a sack of candy. I’ll pay for it. I can pay for it.”

And as the clerk put the candy in, he said, “Put some more in. Fill them up.”

So he paid. You know what he had in his stomach, don’t you? He had in his stomach and his bloodstream and his forebrain the feeling that he was a millionaire. How he felt the next morning was something else. Yes, the Bible says:

“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” Proverbs 20:1.

This is the influence of alcohol and all these other drug poisons, to bring about a feeling that is not true. No lie if of the truth. And as we studied last Friday night, the wine of Babylon is the result of perverting the truth of God.

I will read a statement from the late Doctor Starr Jordan of Stanford University, one of the greatest educators of his time. Listen to these penetrating, thought-provoking words:

“The basis of intemperance is the effort to secure through drugs the feeling of happiness when happiness does not exist. Men destroy their nervous system for the tingling pleasures they feel as its structures are torn apart. There are many drugs which cause this pleasure. And in proportion to the delight they seem to give is the real mischief they work. Pain is the warning to the brain that something is wrong in the organ in which the pain is felt. Sometimes that which should be felt as pain is interpreted as a pleasure.

“Suppose here is a man who has his fingers on the anvil, and he strikes his fingers one by one with a hammer. The brain would feel the shock as pain, wouldn't it? And it would give orders to check those hammer blows. But suppose that through some abnormal condition, some twist of the nerves, some clot on the brain, that the injury is felt not as pain but as exquisite delight. Then there would arise the impulse to do what? Hit them again. The knowledge with the injury which the eye would tell the brain would influence the will to stop it. But the impulse of delight would plead for repetition. And in this fashion the hand might be sacrificed for a feeling of pleasure which is no real pleasure at all. But a form of mania of this character is the effect of all nerve-exciting drugs”  
*The Strength of Being Clean.*

Then he mentions alcohol, opium, tobacco, cocaine, cola, tea, coffee. All of these, he says, the effect is of the nature of mania. They give a feeling of pleasure or rest when rest or pleasure does not exist. This feeling arises from injury to the nerves, which the brain does not truthfully interpret. One and all, these various drugs tend to give the impression of a power or a pleasure or an activity that we do not possess.

In other words, they make the nervous system tell lies. But if they're pleasant lies, why not? This brings us the point: Do we want the wine of Babylon because of the thrill it gives, because of the kick that's in the cup? Or, do we want the life-giving water that Jesus offers, the Holy Spirit of God. And the Bible calls this Spirit the Spirit of truth, and no lie is of the truth. No matter whether it's chemical or religious,

whether it's literature, whether it's amusement, whatever it is, if it's the nature of the false and fictitious, this is in the wine cup of Babylon. No lie is of the truth.

Truth comes from the author of truth—Jesus Christ. And the Spirit of truth is waiting to fill us all with a sense of reality which gives true satisfaction. Not the exciting, fictitious mania of Babylon. Doctor Jordan continues:

“One and all, these various drugs tend to give the impression of a power or a pleasure which we do not possess. One and all, their function is to force the nervous system to lie. One and all the result of their habitual use is to render the nervous system incapable of ever telling the truth” *Ibid*.

Now let me hasten from this to a statement dealing not with the physical drug poisons of alcohol and tobacco and tea and coffee and these others, but this next statement I read is a very similar statement, dealing with an intoxication, which comes through the eye and the ear instead of through the mouth and the stomach. An intoxication that comes from influences affecting the mind directly—the reading of fiction. This is from the life letters of Joseph Conrad. Conrad wrote many novels. At the end of his life, he wrote this (and this is not a novel, this is not fiction, this is a few lines he wrote that weren't fiction). Listen:

“It is a fool's business to write fiction for a living. It is indeed. It is strange. The unreality of it seems to enter ones' real life, penetrating to the bones, make the very heartbeats pulsate illusions through the arteries. One's will becomes the slave of hallucinations, responds only to shadowy impulses. It waits on imagination alone. A strange state, a trying experience, a kind of fiery trial of untruthfulness. And one goes through it with an exaltation as false as all the rest of it. One goes through it, and there is nothing to show at the end. Nothing, nothing, nothing.”

Where did we find is the end of those who make lies? Outside the city. Where is the end? Outside the city. And where is the end of those who love the lies that are made? Outside the city. Oh, my friends, God is the God of truth. Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” Life-giving truth: this is what Christ offers us. How strange that anyone would turn to these fermented perversions in which the truth of God is changed into a lie. How strange that people would drink from the wine cup of Babylon when they may drink the water of life freely offered from the hand of Jesus Himself. Is it not a strange infatuation, dear friend?

“The nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.” As I have indicated, all these things in the wine cup of Babylon are the result of perversions. They all produce excitement of a kind, deception of a kind, and in the end bring death.

Let me illustrate it in another theme. God has placed within the human heart a desire to advance, to grow, to develop. How the little child looks forward to being bigger. How we like to learn and to develop our muscles and our mind. God intended that every creature should continue to develop this wonderful mind that He has given each of us. Each mind is made after a separate pattern. It is God's plan that the mind should develop on through eternity, becoming more and more God-like. Heaven, we are told, is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ. We will never come to the end of understanding an infinite God. There will always be an infinite ocean further to explore.

But there came a time in the experience of Lucifer when he decided that the only way for him to continue to advance would be at the expense of somebody else. The only way for him to rise would be to pull somebody else down. He was already the highest of all created beings. So the only thing he saw to pull down was the Deity. He started his attacks against Christ. He became jealous of the Son of God. He ended up in an open, rebellious, defiant warfare against God. He said:

"I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north" Isaiah 14:13.

So there was war in the Heaven. Satan is the author of war. He is responsible for the first war and every war since. Satan is the author of rebellion. He's the first great rebel. But notice, it began with the sinful thought that in order for him to win, someone else must lose. In order for him to get ahead he must step over someone else. And ever since then, whenever any plan has been devised whereby in order for someone to seem to win, someone else must lose, Satan has been there at work. God never arranged any plan to rob Peter to pay Paul. God never devised anything whereby for you to win, someone else must lose. God never inspired in any heart of angel or human being the lust for beating and winning at the expense of others. Yet this spirit is all through human experience. It's found in the playground. It's found in the classroom. It's found in the workshop and in the store. It's found in the business world, the social world, the political world. It meets its final fruition on the battlefield where men become so filled with the lust for power that they will actually kill others, because they must win.

And so we have the Alexanders, the Julius Caesars, the Napoleons, and the Hitlers of history. And there are millions of others who have lust that somehow did not achieve their notoriety. They are written great in the annals that men write, but they are not great in the books of Heaven, my friend. The humblest child of God, who, in love, serves his fellowmen is a million times greater than all these who have given their lives trying to beat their fellow men.

Now I ask you: Where do you find your entertainment? Where do you find your interest? Is it in beating someone else, in make play or in reality? Or it may be that you find it merely in watching others. Do you find entertainment watching two men hit each other until blood flows, and one is down and out?

Someone says, “Oh, no. I can’t stand that. It’s too gory.”

Maybe you would rather see them just engage in mimic battles with balls or bats or rackets. But in each case, the excitement is to see who is going to *win*.

But in the wine cup of Babylon remember the excitement that is produced by that competition—whether on the battlefield where blood flows or in the mimic battlefield of competitive athletics, or in the scholastic, vying for achievement, somebody to be first—wherever it is, remember that if someone else wins, someone else what? Loses. And as some rise up and shout and cheer and clap and go wild in excitement, “We won! We won!” Others are going away in anger or frustration, or sometime literally in tears because they lost.

Is God the author of that kind of thing, my friend? Would God create a situation where in order for someone to be happy someone else had to be miserable? Would God do that? Ah, thank God there is something better.

The wine cup of Babylon; it excites, it intoxicates, it thrills.

Turn to Proverbs 14, and I want you to see something interesting there.

“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness”  
Proverbs 14:12–13.

Let’s look at another ingredient in this wine cup of Babylon. Here again, we have a perversion. God wants His children to be happy. He says to His disciples:

“These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full” John 15:11.

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them”  
John 13:17.

But Satan takes joy and perverts it into mirth, frolic, folly, foolishness, which he says is more exciting, more fun. That’s the way to have a real good time. In fact, this is one of the great reasons why wine and beer and whiskey and gin abound at parties. You’ve heard the expression “throw a party”? When people throw a party, they generally want some liquor. Why? So that the inhibition, the self control which a sober mind would exercise will be gone, so that reality can be put aside, and we can get all the fun there is in unreality. Many a clown at a party is sad within. He is seeking to forget the real troubles by engaging in unreal mirth and folly.

This is what happened at the birthday of Herod as the wine flowed freely in that great palace when the daughter of Herodias came in and danced before the guests. And in that moment of drunken fun, the life of one of the greatest of the prophets was sacrificed. John the Baptist was beheaded because Herod and his

guests were under the influence of the wine of Babylon, physical and mental and spiritual.

So today in the great parties of society, and in their counterparts in the nightclubs and in the dives, people are laughing at the jokes of comedians, thrilling with the music of this degenerate age, excited from literal alcohol, excited from the music and the jokes, the folly and the fun of those who like to forget God.

God wants His children to be truly happy, but it's the happiness of reality, not make-believe. May I read you something beautiful and wonderful from this book, *Ministry of Healing*, page 246? Every medical missionary needs to know this page. I read:

“For those who would regain or preserve health there is a lesson in the words of Scripture, ‘Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.’ Not through the excitement or oblivion produced by unnatural or unhealthful stimulants; not through indulgence of the lower appetites or passions, is to be found true healing or refreshment for the body or the soul... The hungry, thirsting soul will continue to hunger and thirst so long as it seeks to find satisfaction here. Those who drink at the fountain of selfish pleasure are deceived. The mistake hilarity for strength, and when the excitement ceases, their inspiration ends, and they are left to discontent and despondency” *Ministry of Healing*, page 246.

How a man feels the morning after the night before is proverbial, isn't it? God is not in the business of giving a man or woman or youth such a wonderful time on Saturday night that he isn't good for anything all day Sunday. Is that the best that Heaven can offer us? And remember, whether that excitement comes from things moving on a screen, or comes out of a glass of whiskey, or comes from a book of fiction, or whether it comes from listening to a comedian crack one joke after the other, from whether it comes from any of these other sources, the excitement is fictitious, the fun is froth and foam.

Those who drink at the fountain of selfish pleasure are deceived. They mistake hilarity for strength. And when the excitement ceases, their inspiration ends. They are left to discontent and despondency.

Someone says, “Brother Frazee, you're not leaving us very much, are you?”

I hope not. I hope we won't leave anything in our lives that comes from the wine cup of Babylon. What do you say, friends? I not only want to escape being *dead* drunk, I don't want to be even a *little* drunk. Do you? And the biggest reason is that I don't want to *miss* real life. Real life with God is so wonderful that it would be a shame to miss it for even five minutes, friends. And God offers us in this world a sample of it. And if we like it, He will extend it through all eternity.

But there will be nothing fictitious, nothing unreal, nothing false all through the ages of eternity. Everything will be true. Everything will be real. Everything will be loving. Nobody will win at the expense of others. Everybody will win helping others, and everybody will enjoy that.

Friends, we can have a sample of it here. Jesus says:

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you;  
not as the world giveth, give I unto you” John 14:27.

This peace is not something that He gives apart from Himself. It is in Christ, and we can receive it only by receiving Him. So tonight, which do we wish: the wine cup of Babylon or the river of the water of life that flows from the heart of God? Which do we want to drink? Do we want the excitement that comes from the wine cup of Babylon, or do we want the deep joy of the abiding peace? The day-by-day satisfaction that comes from knowing Christ as a personal friend, that comes from having Him as a companion in labor as well as in recreation. Oh, I thank God that He wants to be such a personal companion and friend to everyone here.

Your life can be filled with satisfaction. You don't have to look for it all week through some fun party on Saturday night, hoping that that will cause you to forget your troubles. Thank God, on Monday and Wednesday, on every day, every hour of the day, you can have the presence of One Who made you, and knows how you tick, who knows what satisfies you. You can have the companionship of One who loves you so much that He died for you. He thinks you are so valuable that He gave His own life so that the *potential* that He put in you can be realized. Wouldn't it be a shame to sell out so cheap, to have a few moments, a few years of fun which is unreal, when we can make *Him* glad and receive the gladness that He has planned for us by living *for* Him and *with* Him?

But it is not selfish pleasure that Jesus offers us. There's a mystery about this, friends. The satisfaction that Jesus offers us is the satisfaction of being involved with Him in sacrificial living, in unselfish service. As love in His heart (don't miss this!) drove Him from the throne to the manger, to the cross, so love in our hearts will lead us to turn away from the selfish pleasures, the fun, the excitement of this world, and put our lives into loving service for Him and suffering humanity.

This is the real satisfaction of life. This is what you were born for. And nothing less than the thing you were born for will satisfy you.

Oh friends, I know that many of you have found what I am saying tonight is true. Am I correct? I would that everyone here could know it to the full. And I say this to you: no matter how much we've had, there's more to be had. No matter how much Jesus has done for us, there is more He longs to do for us in separating us from Babylon and drawing us close to Him in this deep, sweet, personal experience in which *love* motivates every action.



Is there someone here tonight who knows that an arrow from the Lord's quiver has reached your heart? Is there someone who knows that God brought you to this meeting to get a message that would change something in your life? And because you recognize it, and because you love Jesus, you're going to let Him make that change in your life that God has talked to your heart about tonight. Whatever God has put His finger on in your life, will you give it to Him?

It is wonderful to have the Holy Spirit working on our hearts. Oh, how wonderful it is to let Jesus come in.

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