**March 1, 2015**

**Dr. Eric G. Fuller**

**Sermon Title: “Why I don’t drink alcohol!”**

**Sermon Text: Ephesians 5:18**

**Ephesians 5:18 (HCSB)**

**18And don’t get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless actions, but be filled by the Spirit:**

**4 Reasons I don’t drink alcohol:**

**Reason #1: I don’t drink because of the references of “wine” in the Bible!**

**Proverbs 20:1 (HCSB)**

**Wine is a mocker, beer is a brawler,**

**and whoever staggers because of them is not wise.**

**Proverbs 23:21 (HCSB)**

**21For the drunkard and the glutton will become poor,**

**and grogginess will clothe them in rags.**

**Proverbs 23:29–35 (HCSB)**

**29Who has woe? Who has sorrow?**

**Who has conflicts? Who has complaints?**

**Who has wounds for no reason?**

**Who has red eyes?**

**30Those who linger over wine,**

**those who go looking for mixed wine.**

**31Don’t gaze at wine because it is red,**

**when it gleams in the cup**

**and goes down smoothly.**

**32In the end it bites like a snake**

**and stings like a viper.**

**33Your eyes will see strange things,**

**and you will say absurd things.**

**34You’ll be like someone sleeping out at sea**

**or lying down on the top of a ship’s mast.**

**35“They struck me, but I feel no pain!**

**They beat me, but I didn’t know it!**

**When will I wake up?**

**I’ll look for another drink.”**

**Daniel 1:5 (HCSB)**

**5The king assigned them daily provisions from the royal food and from the wine that he drank. They were to be trained for three years, and at the end of that time they were to serve in the king’s court.**

**Daniel 1:8 (HCSB)**

**Faithfulness in Babylon**

**8Daniel determined that he would not defile himself with the king’s food or with the wine he drank. So he asked permission from the chief official not to defile himself.**

**Daniel 1:16 (HCSB)**

**16So the guard continued to remove their food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables.**

**Luke 1:15 (HCSB)**

**15For he will be great in the sight of the Lord**

**and will never drink wine or beer.**

**He will be filled with the Holy Spirit**

**while still in his mother’s womb.**

**Mark 15:23 (HCSB)**

**23They tried to give Him wine mixed with myrrh, but He did not take it.**

**Reason #2: I don’t drink because of Jesus and His association with alcohol!**

**John 2:1–10 (HCSB)**

**The First Sign: Turning Water into Wine**

**2 On the third day a wedding took place in Cana of Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and 2Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding as well. 3When the wine ran out, Jesus’ mother told Him, “They don’t have any wine.”**

**4“What has this concern of yours to do with Me, woman?” Jesus asked. “My hour has not yet come.”**

**5“Do whatever He tells you,” His mother told the servants.**

**6Now six stone water jars had been set there for Jewish purification. Each contained 20 or 30 gallons.**

**7“Fill the jars with water,” Jesus told them. So they filled them to the brim. 8Then He said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the chief servant.” And they did.**

**9When the chief servant tasted the water (after it had become wine), he did not know where it came from—though the servants who had drawn the water knew. He called the groom 10and told him, “Everyone sets out the fine wine first, then, after people have drunk freely, the inferior. But you have kept the fine wine until now.”**

**Habakkuk 2:15 (HCSB)**

**15Woe to him who gives his neighbors drink,**

**pouring out your wrath**

**and even making them drunk,**

**in order to look at their nakedness!**

**Reason #3: I don’t drink because of the issue of alcoholism and addiction!**

**Reason #4: I don’t drink because I want to set the biblical example!**

**Matthew 5:13–14 (HCSB)**

**Believers Are Salt and Light**

**13“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled on by men.**

**14“You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden.**

**Romans 14:21 (HCSB)**

**21It is a noble thing not to eat meat, or drink wine, or do anything that makes your brother stumble.**

**Luke 12:45–46 (HCSB)**

**45But if that slave says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and starts to beat the male and female slaves, and to eat and drink and get drunk, 46that slave’s master will come on a day he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.**