

John 2:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

Analysis

The governor's comment—'Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine... but thou hast kept the good wine until now'—reveals the wine's exceptional quality. Normal practice served best wine first; this host seemingly reversed protocol. The irony is profound: unbeknownst to the governor, this isn't the host's planning but Christ's provision. The 'best wine last' pictures gospel truth—Christ brings not deterioration but escalation. The new covenant surpasses the old.

Historical Context

The custom of serving best wine first exploited guests' dulled taste after initial consumption. Jesus reverses this cynical pattern. The 'good wine' kept until last symbolizes how the new covenant in Christ's blood surpasses the old covenant's ceremonial provisions. Grace exceeds law; reality surpasses shadow.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the 'best wine last' principle apply to spiritual growth and eternal hope?
2. What does this miracle teach about how Christ transforms the ordinary into extraordinary?

Interlinear Text

καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ Πᾶς ἄνθρωπος πρῶτον τὸν καλὸν
And **saith** **unto him** **Every** **man** **at the beginning** G3588 **good**
G2532 G3004 G846 G3956 G444 G4412 G2570

οἶνον τίθησιν καὶ ὅταν μεθυσθῶσιν τότε τὸν
wine **doth set forth** **And** **when** **men have well drunk** **then** G3588
G3631 G5087 G2532 G3752 G3184 G5119

ἐλάσσω· σὺ τετήρηκας τὸν καλὸν οἶνον ἕως
that which is worse **but thou** **hast kept** G3588 **good** **wine** **until**
G1640 G4771 G5083 G2570 G3631 G2193

ἄρτι
now
G737