

It Is Written

A weekly publication of the
Junction Highway church of Christ in Kerrville, TX.
Vol. 2 January 19, 2020 No. 3

"Consuming Alcohol"

By Carl Allen

Drinking alcohol continues to be a problem among men. Alcohol use ultimately brings ruin, and yet, it is a multi-million-dollar product. Living in Kentucky, we are well aware of the bourbon industry, and the dollars (in taxes and profits) it produces yearly.

Can we justify drinking alcohol because of the monetary rewards for the city, county, or state? Can we justify drinking alcohol because so much of the world thinks this is the right thing to do? I find it odd that if alcohol is such a wonderful thing to have, and a "boon" for our economy, why are there "AA" groups and Betty Ford Clinics (now called Hazelden Betty Ford) scattered throughout the United States whose purpose is to help people stop drinking alcohol and overcome addiction?

Often, people will argue that God never condemned drinking alcohol, only the abuse of it (i.e., getting drunk). This seems to be so when we know that yes, God condemned getting drunk (Rom. 13:13; I Cor. 5:11, 6:10; Gal. 5:21). Yet, is this the extent of God's condemnation? Is it OK to drink "a little" and promise not to get drunk?

Actually, God condemns not only drunkenness but everything that leads up to that point. In other words, God condemns "social" drinking as well as getting drunk! This is not an opinion but this statement is based upon the facts of the Scripture. For example, Solomon said, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Prov. 20:1). In other words, wine is personified as mocking us when we drink. Mocking has to do with scorn, derision, to make fun of, or treat cruelly. This is what happens to one when it is in our system. Wine doesn't make one "ten feet tall and bulletproof." It is just the opposite! Anyone who thinks otherwise about alcohol is not a wise person. If one is not a wise person, then what is he?

In Proverbs 23:29-35, we read again about the dangers of alcohol. In this case, Solomon begins by talking about people who suffer injuries and yet have no idea how they were injured. Their minds are so messed up with alcohol that they have lost their memory of how it happened (v. 30). Yet, notice that God not only condemns drunkenness but also tells the reader not to even look at the wine (v. 31). "At the last," it will "bite like a serpent and sting like an adder" (v. 32). Remember, there would be no "at the last" if there were not a "first!" Drinking alcohol is condemned by God from the beginning in this passage!

A New Testament passage that is appropriate in this study is I Peter 4:3. There, we read, "For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries." In this verse, we see where Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, spoke God's word and condemned drinking in any amount. "Excess of wine," "revellings," and "banquetings" describe various states of inebriation. Essentially, from the "social" drinking party (banquetings) to the passed out drunk (excess of wine), God, through Peter, said to not be involved in it. Such actions are in the same category as lasciviousness, lusts, idolatry, and the lusts of men (I Pet. 4:2).

Does this sound like alcohol consumption is a "game?" Does this sound like it is not a serious issue? Christians need to avoid the appearance of evil and need to stop playing games with sin (I Thess. 5:21-22). Some justify drinking champagne at weddings, while others say it is OK to drink a beer from time to time. We hear of those who think an after-dinner drink, or a "nightcap" before bed is the way to go. Friends, don't get caught up in Satan's trap! Alcohol consumption will wreck and ruin our souls. We stand in jeopardy when we are justifying the recreational use of alcohol! Don't fall for Satan's lies!

How Would You Like To Teach A Bible Class?

Author Unknown

Have you ever been asked the question, "Would you like to teach a Bible class?" If so, what was your reply?

This is something that many are asked, and various answers are given. Being a Bible class teacher is not something that should be taken lightly. It is a very serious job. A Bible class teacher is helping to mold the future of the church. When teachers are in their classes, they are responsible for the instruction of our children. A teacher that studies the lesson, and is prepared, will be setting the example of how serious and important the Word of God is. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Ps. 119:105). "Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me. Deliver me from the oppression of man: so will I keep thy precepts. Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes" (Ps. 119:33-35).

Teaching is also very rewarding. The love that children give is a special blessing. To be able to reach out to children from different walks of life and share God's love is something wonderful. Each child is unique in their own way. Teaching a child about how much God loves us and how He cares for us will help them as they grow physically and spiritually.

In Titus 2:7-8, the apostle Paul speaks about teaching what is good: "In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you."

The children of today are the church of tomorrow. Among the little freckled faces and skinned knees of our boys, we have the future deacons, song leaders, elders, preachers, and teachers. Our little girls with ruffles and bows will someday be mothers and teachers. They will be the wives of our church leaders and preachers. It is so important to teach them and give them the guidance they need. Our young children and teenagers are facing so many problems today that can lead them astray. We need to teach our children about following Jesus and staying with Him.

In I Timothy 1:6-7, the apostle Paul warns about false teachers. "From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm."

A teacher has the responsibility of setting the right example for children. They will not only see you at the church building but away from it also. You need to be aware of where you might be guiding a child when he sees you somewhere other than in the Bible class.

We want to teach our children about our heavenly Father. They need to study God's word. As children grow they need to be aware of how the Bible can be the foundation of their lives. Children face a lot of peer-pressure once they start school. By giving them a strong spiritual foundation, it will help them to choose the right path to follow in this life, which will lead them to eternal life.