

Oologah Informer

Oologah Church of Christ, Oologah, Oklahoma

February 19, 2011

Address:

P.O. Box 527
Oologah, OK 74053

Phone Number:

918-443-2025

Meeting Place:

Hwy 169
South of Oologah

Schedule of Services

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Evangelist:

Vance Smith

TV Programs:

Sunday 7:30 am

SEARCH Program
(TV 47/Cable 7)

Website:

www.oologahcofc.org

Beverage Alcohol

Advocacy for Alcohol Rebutted Part 2

By Louis Rushmore

History thus records the desperation with which man sought his own destruction through alcohol. No more pitiful example of one's passion for alcohol can be found than when religious people, including Christians, attempt to call God as a witness, through the Holy Bible, for the defense of the much-loved consumption of alcohol.

Straw Men

➤ ***"The percentage of alcohol in the naturally fermenting wine of the Bible was minimal compared to contemporary wine; God approved intoxicating wine in the Bible but does not condone the wine available today."***

Intoxicating wine in Bible times still resulted in drunkenness despite containing less alcohol than wine and other alcoholic drinks today. "At any rate, Noah and Lot were so drunk they did not know what was going on" (Van Loh, *Alcohol* Book Two 74). Every warning in the Bible against intoxicating wine proves that even intoxicating wine in the biblical era was disapproved by God and harmful to humanity.

- ***“People in Bible times often drank intoxicating wine because there was a shortage of potable water.”***

This is a popular belief today. But water was a special gift of God in the good land He [God] promised Abraham. Wells were common and many house had their own cisterns. Anyone who says there was not enough water contradicts God’s own words in Deuteronomy 8:7 and 11:11, 12. ...Grape juice was also a gift of God, but nowhere does the Bible say that it takes the place of water. ...In a time of drought, water became a problem, but the grape harvest failed also. (Van Loh, *Alcohol Book Two* 74)

The Bible lands east of the Mediterranean Sea, including Palestine, were called the Fertile Crescent because it was well watered, fertile land suitable for growing crops and sustaining populations. In addition to natural freshwater sources, reservoirs and cisterns were abundant complements. A similar ad hoc, off-the-wall and equally fallacious assertion about insufficient water is often charged respecting sufficient water for Christian baptism beginning in Acts 2 with 3,000 people being immersed. Factually, Palestine had been the center of the world for thousands of years (between Europe, Africa and Asia), sustaining several different nations as well as much sought after by outsiders. Further, Palestine boasted enough water beyond sustaining large populations with fresh drinking water to include sufficient water for Jewish ceremonial washings and later Christian baptism by the thousands.

- ***“Ancient peoples neither knew how to preserve grape juice from fermenting nor had an appreciation for unfermented wine!”***

Ample evidence herein already reviewed demonstrates conclusively that ancient civilizations had the knowledge and desire to preserve grape juice from fermentation. The following quotation further notes an appreciation for unfermented wine. “Aristotle (384—322 B.C.) told about sweet wine that would not intoxicate. Horace (65—8 B.C.) wrote of fumigated wine and said a hundred glasses might be drunk ‘without clamor or passion.’ Hippocrates (460—370 B.C.) said, ‘Sweet kinds of wines do not make the head heavy’” (Van Loh, *Alcohol Book One* 37).

Ancient peoples not only desired to preserve crops and beverages, they could and did as well as needed to preserve crops to ensure their survival.

Many books, written even before the time of Christ, reveal that people were quite familiar with the principles of preserving meats, fruits, beverages, etc., for extremely long periods of time. This was necessary for survival! Their primary objective was to *prevent* putrefaction, fermentation, decay, decomposition, and corruption of the grape [as well as other fruits and vegetables]. (Wesley 31)

➤ ***“The word wine in the Bible always refers to an alcoholic beverage!”***

Sentiments such as these are based solely on an unenlightened emotional rationalization to justify social drinking. Several Hebrew and Greek words are translated with the English word “wine” in our Bibles. Irrespective of the variations in meanings that may be discernible between the several words, the overriding factor by which they derive their meanings pertains to the context in which they are used. Understanding the context in which they are employed is vital to their proper interpretation and explanation.

The word translated “wine” in English (in Koiné Greek) can refer to either alcoholic or non-alcoholic wine. At present, the term “wine” is almost used exclusively of alcoholic wine, but let us never be guilty of interpretation based solely upon modern day definitions. Consider these examples of the word “wine” being used in Scripture with reference to unfermented grape juice.

Joel 1:10 says, “The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth.” (This refers to grapes dried up in the fields which could not be intoxicating.)

Isaiah 65:8 says, “Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants’ sakes, that I may not destroy them all.” (Alcoholic wine in the cluster? No, the

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News & Notes

Visitors

We would like to extend our welcome to you. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask. Also, please fill out a visitor's card located in the pew in front of you.

Please remember in your prayers:

Ed & Barbara Coats, Ruth Corbett, Allen & Joyce Cash, Mary Ann Haugh, Patrick Brown (cancer treatment), **Steven Andrews, Dan & Mary Ann Haugh's Granddaughter**, and our **military forces** throughout the world.

Other News

Please keep **Austin Lankford** in your prayers as he is going through cancer treatments at Hillcrest Hospital. **Patricia Wallace** went through some tests this past week. **Vance Smith** had an appointment with an Ear, Nose, and Throat doctor. Emma and Ruth, **Darla's sisters**, are not doing well and Ruth is still in the hospital.

Austin Lankford's Address:

Hillcrest Medical Center
1120 S. Utica
Austin Lankford
Room 7621
Tulsa, OK 74104

Response

Roy Dean Winton asked for forgiveness and to be restored. Please remember him in your prayers and offer words of encouragement.

Continued from inside...

juice of the grape while in the cluster could not be intoxicating.) Jeremiah 48:33 says, "And joy and gladness is taken from the plentiful field, and from the land of Moab; and I have caused wine to fail from the winepresses: none shall tread with shouting; their shouting shall be no shouting." (The wine of fresh squeezed grapes coming out of the winepress is grape juice and could not be fermented.) Certainly other passages could be considered, but these are sufficient to illustrate that

News & Notes

the word “wine” can refer to alcoholic wine or simply grape juice.
(Northrop)