

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 Andrews87**, 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. Austin got an unfavorable report from his doctor's this past week. Emma and Ruth, **Darla's sisters**, are not doing well and Ruth back in the hospital. **Robert Duncan** has been traveling on business for the last few weeks.

Austin Lankford's Address:

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

Oologah Informer

Oologah Church of Christ, Oologah, Oklahoma

March 18, 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

Summary Observations

By Louis Rushmore

When all is said and done, Scripture is explicitly plain that God disapproves of mankind's consumption of alcoholic beverages.

That there was an intoxicating wine in antiquity is not denied. The Bible and early secular writers however are clear in their denunciation of such wine. (Jeffcoat 47)

These two following verses summarize the biblical teaching about the consumption of alcohol.

Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. (Proverbs 23:31-32)

Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness! (Habakkuk 2:15)

Sober

Rather than approving some degree of intoxication, the New Testament teaches sobriety. Christians are forbidden to surrender control of their faculties to drugs, inclusive of alcohol.

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be **sober**. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be **drunken** are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be **sober**, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. (1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 emphasis added)

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be **sober**, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:13 emphasis added)

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore **sober**, and watch unto prayer. (1 Peter 4:7 emphasis added)

Be **sober**, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8 emphasis added)

Numerous New Testament passages admonish the children of God to be sober.

Vine defines the term in these words of weighty warning, "signifies to be free from the influence of intoxicants." Thayer says it means to be temperate. Obviously, one is not free from the influence of intoxicants in social drinking. (Elkins and Taylor 11)

Conclusion

According to history, medical science and the Bible, alcohol is a great liability to any one, not only while we are on earth, but also especially as we each cross the threshold of eternity. The evidence is insurmountable against beverage alcohol. Especially professed Christians who make themselves

apologists for the evil of social drinking, do so to their own harm and in opposition to the obvious.

Looking the Bible through from cover to cover, we find not merely scattered references here and there, but in every one of the 66 books, contributing testimony to the moral and social indictment of drinking in society. ...we understand...the nature of alcohol, its characteristics and harmful effects, are so clearly depicted in Bible narrative, from the days of Noah all the way through the Biblical history, that **it is easy to recognize alcohol as the same potentially devastating, home destroying, soul destroying beverage that it always has been**, and always will be, as long as society countenances its pernicious influence. (Watson 12 emphasis added)

The positive considerations of an alcohol free life present a stark contrast to the fruit of beverage alcohol.

...[A]bstinence can make life fuller, healthier, more satisfying, enjoyable, and beautiful. It can add years to your life, money to the pocketbook, harmony to the home. It sets a better example for others to follow, it makes highway driving safer, it sharpens ability to make right decisions and to react quickly in case of emergency. It improves one's own self image and his relationship to others and to his God. (Francis A. Soper "Alcohol: Ten Reasons Why You Don't Need It" qtd. in Davey)

Vigorous, though unpersuasive, defense of social drinking, in view of biblical condemnation of alcohol and plenty of contemporary evidence of the harm it causes, notwithstanding that Hebrew, Greek and English definitions of "drunkenness" likewise condemn it, only portrays the degree to which society esteems that which will destroy all it can—physically, spiritually, financially, socially and eternally. The proverb still reads:

Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

Away with this spineless, mousey [sic] approach to immorality and drunkenness! Away with all this silly talk about not wanting to turn off or offend teen-agers who cruise and booze with their school friends. Away with this unscriptural double talk about a new morality with more freedom to drink in moderation. Away with all the lies that Jesus and Paul drank wine, and that Christians who are not under the law can do the same. God give us ministers and parents with enough moral courage to put a stop to this flood of permissiveness that approves drinking and fornication for young people. How many more of our kids have to become alcoholics and burned-out shells of humanity before we say, "Enough"? How many thousands more or our teen-agers must be **sacrificed on brewery altars** before we get angry enough to speak out? What will it take to convince **sipping saints** they have become the biggest stumbling block this generation has encountered? When will **drinking Christians** wake up to the fact that they are the bad examples who have set thousands of youth on the road to drunkenness? **When will ministers come to realize their silence on this problem is taken as approval for drinking?** (Wilkerson 44-45 emphasis added)

"Intoxicating wine is man's perversion of God's good bounty" (Van Loh, *Alcohol* Book Two 77).

Alcohol is dangerous because it drowns thought. It turns convictions into cowardice. It causes one to go to sleep on God, and it turns heads and hearts away from spiritual things. Alcohol grows on men's insides. **What it does to the soul is far more devastating than what it does to the body.** (Wilkerson 30 emphasis added)

...Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again. (Proverbs 23:20-35)

The warning is not even to look at the intoxicating wine. Hamburgers, were someone desirous to justify alcohol consumption on the basis of comparison to food, do not fall into the same category. Hamburgers we may eat in moderation, but we should have nothing to do with alcohol.

Alcohol, imbibed as a beverage, in any form, and to any degree, is positively prohibited in sacred writings. In "any form," includes, but is not limited to drinking of beer, wine, whiskey, and brandy; and, to "any degree" runs the gamut from the so-called social drinker to the pitiful alcoholic who daily drinks himself into stupidity. ...indulgence to any extent is wrong because drunkenness is a matter of degree, and begins with the first drop of the fiery liquid. (Woods 21-22)

Wilkerson writes, "...if the preacher is to 'stick to his Bible,' preach the whole truth, and to be fair to the Word of God, he **MUST preach against alcohol**" (34 emphasis added). A hearty "Amen" to the following sentiment respecting ministerial and parental responsibilities concerning alcohol.

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