

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT: ALCOHOL

LESSON 1

Biblical Wine versus Modern Wine

For many years, there has been a major debate over the topic of alcohol. With wine being found in the Bible throughout various scriptures and then the addition of the various personal views of alcohol, it is important to understand the full picture of this topic and how it applies to the modern Christian in the proper context of the Word of God. Christians of today's time cannot use a contemporary ideology, understanding, or other aspects of culture and apply them to biblical settings. This leaves the modern Christian with a lack of knowledge and missing vital pieces to the overall picture of the Bible.

A) WINEMAKING PROCESSES

The first part of understanding this topic is to gather knowledge of the process used to make wine (alcohol). Different processes were used in biblical times and in modern times for creating this substance. Knowing these processes will allow the mind to understand what is being described with biblical wine and how it differs from the modern wine of today.

BIBLICAL WINE PROCESS

The wine of the Bible was processed by gathering grapes from the vine in baskets and placed into a winepress. The winepress was a cistern made of rock that allowed the pressed juice to exit a hole into a vat. People would climb into the cistern and press the grapes with their feet. Some of this juice was boiled down and made into a substance similar to honey (or what many would compare to jelly or jam). The juice that was not boiled down would sit collecting in vessels for an average of 40 days. Natural, or primary, fermentation takes place within three to four weeks. According to Pastor Chris McMichael's book, "Redemptive Botany of the Bible", 70% of wine's final alcohol content is converted during this aerobic fermentation. This, now called wine, was tipped gently into jars without disrupting the lees or dregs (sludge formed that settles on the bottom of the container). The Bible uses this picture to describe Moab but also confirms this process.

- **Moab has been at ease since his youth; He has also been undisturbed, like wine on its dregs, and he has not been emptied from vessel to vessel, nor has he gone into exile. Therefore he retains his flavor, and his aroma has not changed.**

Jeremiah 48:11 NASB

The jars were then sealed with clay except for a small hole to allow gases to escape from the jar. Some people would keep their wine in wineskins (bottles made from goatskins) but if not processed correctly the gases would cause the wineskins to burst. This was the importance of placing new wine into new wineskins.

- **And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved.** **Matthew 9:17 NLT**

According to the writings of the Mishnah and Talmud, the common dilution rate for wine consumption was 3 parts water to 1 part wine (3:1 ratio). This leads to a maximum range of 1-3% alcoholic content by volume. The alcohol content of biblical wine was significantly lower due to the limitations of fermentation and the nonexistence of distillation.

Higher-content alcoholic drinks were created when barley was added allowing the yeast to continue the chemical reaction for more alcohol by volume. This process would increase the alcoholic content to a higher range of 8-14% by volume to some scholars' estimations. These substances are often referred to as mixed wine, strong drink, vinegar, or even wine but differ in the original language. Although wine is used in English, it is important to understand the original language and words used to know the proper meanings. Other wines were made from dates, pomegranates, apples, and grains according to the resources available at the time.

MODERN WINE PROCESS

Modern wine is processed by selecting the fruit that is desired and obtaining the juices. Yeast is added to the fruit to speed up the primary fermentation. This is reminiscent of adding the barley to increase the alcoholic content. With the addition of the yeast, this process takes one to two weeks by converting the sugars of the juice into ethanol (alcohol) and carbon dioxide. By adding the yeast, more sugars will ferment creating a higher alcohol content.

The general process starts by creating a free-run wine by extracting the juice that has been crushed by the weight of the grape berries when loaded into a press. After the free-run wine is gathered, the remaining grape berries are hard pressed extracting another 30-40% more juice from the grapes. This is called pressed juice. Pressed juice has positive aspects of more body, aroma characteristics, and aging benefits. The negative aspects of pressed juice are bitterness, bad mouthfeel, and potential instability due to the pH increase. Next, the press wine is blended with free-run wine at the winemaker's discretion and is kept warm so more sugars are converted into alcohol and carbon dioxide.

Most wines or types of alcoholic drinks go through a secondary fermentation and use distillation to remove water condensing the alcohol content to create a higher percentage of alcohol also known as proof. Some wines use no grapes at all but mix water with ethanol, and other additives, to create such a drink. Modern wine can contain an average of 6% to 20% alcoholic content by volume. Beer contains an average of 5% while distilled spirits can contain 40% alcohol by volume.

PROCESS CONCLUSION

The processes for these wines are completely different. Comparing these substances to be the same is not feasible as a process or a product. The Word of God describes the dangers

of wine that would be compared to the modern process and product. Since the advancements of technology and the purifying of water in many societies, the necessity of biblical wine is not as prevalent, especially with the processes of juice being maintained so as not to ferment through pasteurization.

One should also note the vast difference in alcoholic content found in the Bible is 1-3% maximum when following the guidelines of God and 6% to over 40% (content varies with the type of drink) of the alcoholic content of modern drinks.

- **They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look no thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.** Proverbs 23:30-31 KJV

No matter the choice of drink, a person is already doubling the amount of alcohol when consuming modern wine or other alcoholic drinks. The strong drink (mixed wine) fermentation of the Bible was at a range of 8-14% (by adding barley) but to keep wine at this level, much less consume it, was an act of disobedience unto God. God desires His people to be sober-minded (**1 Peter 5:8; 1 Peter 4:7; Titus 2:2-3; 1 Timothy 3:2; 1 Peter 1:13; 2 Timothy 4:5**).

B) OTHER ASPECTS OF BIBLICAL WINE

Although wine is often considered just a drink for many people, there were more uses for this substance due to the lack of modern availability or the creation of other helpful substances. Another factor in biblical wine is the hygiene issues that surround this substance.

HYGIENE CONCERNS

When referencing wine throughout the Bible, one must remember the timeframe the people lived in and the lack of ability to preserve food. Another issue with this timeframe is the lack of clean water available for consumption and use. As water was often the biggest health concern due to pollution through animal usage, washing, sewage, and dirt, wine would have been the staple drink of this time. Grapes were also more plentiful than water during this time.

- **Drink no longer water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your often illnesses.** 1 Timothy 5:23 AMP

While many view this verse as a reason to drink alcohol, the proper context of this verse is not the focus on the wine but the avoidance of water only which was usually found to be harmful during this time. Not all sources of water would be safe to partake of, but biblical wine would guarantee cleaner water. Cleaner water would be used to mix with wine to not ruin the product produced by the hard work of making it.

Wine was also used for disinfecting. This allowed the ability to clean wounds and various other items for sanitary conditions, even though this does not compare to today's standards.

- **Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him.** Luke 10:34 NLT

As displayed here from the Good Samaritan, wine was used as a disinfectant to clean wounds in addition to olive oil. This would not have been as effective as rubbing alcohol but may have been the best substance to use at the time.

MEDICINAL USES

Wine was also used for medicinal purposes. The strong drink was mixed at times, with myrrh or gall to relieve pain. Jesus did not allow this to dull the activity of His crucifixion.

- **They offered Him wine mingled with gall to drink; but when He tasted it, He refused to drink it.** Matthew 27:34 AMP
- **And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not.** Mark 15:23 KJV

Jesus was offered mingled wine mixed with gall and myrrh, but He refused to drink it. Jesus fulfilled the prophecy by not drinking this wine and defiling Himself (**Psalm 69:21**). Others who were about to die from various means could have been given a strong drink before death. This could be equated to pain medicine before death in today's time.

- **Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.** Proverbs 31:6-7 KJV
- **Give strong drink [as medicine] to him who is ready to pass away, and wine to him in bitter distress of heart. Let him drink and forget his poverty and [seriously] remember his want and misery no more.** Proverbs 31:6-7 AMP

This picture is painted of using such a substance for medicinal purposes for those who are in the process of dying to ease the pain and mind of the dying person (**Ecclesiastes 9:7**). The emphasis on strong drink, as previously mentioned, helps those that are ready to die. Much like the abuse of medicine, one can see the guidelines that are established but some people still choose to defend the rebellion of not following God's Word or standards. Although this is allowed for those in pain and already dying in biblical times, those who typically desire alcohol in today's time are not facing such a life-ending situation.

May Christians gain a better understanding of the differences between biblical wine and modern wine and use the Word of God to not partake of such rebellion.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT: ALCOHOL

LESSON 2

Biblical Warnings About Alcohol

There are many scriptures within the Bible that warn against the consumption and effects of alcohol. Some verses warn to not even fellowship or associate with people who declare to be Christians but still drink alcohol. As previously discussed, biblical wine is not the same as the modern substance of wine. Strong drink, mixed wine, and modern alcohol are what the Bible warns against regarding drinking.

- **Wine produces mockers; alcohol leads to brawls. Those led astray by drink cannot be wise.** **Proverbs 20:1 NLT**

Fermentation or intoxication is the wine discussed in this verse. The context of this verse discusses both wine and alcohol (strong drink in KJV) and their effects on people. Each of these leads people away from God and the truth found in Him.

- **Who has anguish? Who has sorrow? Who is always fighting? Who is always complaining? Who has unnecessary bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? ³⁰It is the one who spends long hours in the taverns, trying out new drinks.** **Proverbs 23:29-30 NLT**

Here the Bible even describes those who are known to go to establishments that serve alcohol as their purpose are the people who are looking for help in the wrong place. Those not looking for God's help turn to the world and the things it offers but help will not be found.

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

The Bible warns to be sober because an enemy is seeking to devour whom he may. To be sober is defined as abstaining from alcohol, being watchful, not excessive in attitude, not sedated, or extreme in qualities. Devour is defined as drinking down, gulping entirely, swallowing, destroying, or preying upon. This verse means more than alcohol but does include alcohol by definition.

- **What sorrow awaits the proud city of Samaria – the glorious crown of the drunks of Israel. It sits at the head of a fertile valley, but its glorious beauty will fade like a flower. It is the pride of a people brought down by wine. ⁷Now, however, Israel is led by drunks who reel with wine and stagger with alcohol. The priests and prophets stagger with alcohol and lose themselves in wine. They reel when they see visions and stagger as they render decisions. ⁸Their tables are covered with vomit; filth is everywhere.** **Isaiah 28:1,7-8 NLT**

The Bible warns about not drinking but also the lifestyle that comes with such an activity (*to be discussed in another lesson*). Nothing is appealing in these verses but it is a warning for those who choose to participate in such activities. Drinking includes a dirty lifestyle but also a dirty soul.

- **Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart. Hosea 4:11 KJV**

Whoredom here represents spiritual adultery, unfaithfulness, and a lack of belief in God. Wine represents fermented wine and intoxication but also seeking thrills and pleasure. New wine represents sweet or fresh grape juice but also leaving to seek something new. In each of these listed the heart has chosen to walk away from God due to a lack of love for Him. It could be said that a person who chooses to seek alcohol is lacking love for God as their substance.

- **Awake, you drunkards, and weep; wail, all you drinkers of wine, because of the [fresh] sweet juice [of the grape], for it is cut off and removed from your mouth. Joel 1:5 AMP**

This verse displays the addiction that alcohol creates within those who participate in such activity. There is a drowsiness or inability to stay awake also associated with alcohol that God warns against and the need to be awake and sober-minded throughout the Bible. God even declares those who are drunkards will wail when their juice is taken from them. This reflects how addicted they are to having this substance. God does not want people to lean on substances but to lean on Him.

- **Woe to those who are mighty heroes at drinking wine and men of strength in mixing alcoholic drinks! Who justify and acquit the guilty for a bribe, but take away the rights of the innocent and righteous from them! Isaiah 5:22-23 AMP**

Modern culture displays many media heroes as those who do things and drink for their downtime. This reflects the ideology that the strongest or coolest people drink alcohol to relax, but the Bible warns against those who do such things. In God's eyes, these are not heroes but fools and corrupt.

- **Do not carouse with drunkards or feast with gluttons, for they are on their way to poverty, and too much sleep clothes them in rags. Proverbs 23:20-21 NLT**

Here the Bible begins to distinguish a separation of those who serve their flesh and participate in drinking alcohol and those who partake of the wisdom of God and not alcohol. This is further reasoning why God's people should not drink alcohol and not fellowship with those who do.

- **For in the end it bites like a poisonous snake; it stings like a viper. You will see hallucinations, and you will say crazy things. You will stagger like a sailor tossed at sea clinging to a swaying mast. And you will say, They hit me, but I didn't feel it.**

I didn't even know it when they beat me up. When will I wake up so I can look for another drink? Proverbs 23:32-35 NLT

Alcohol does not bring benefits but allows poison to enter one's life bringing death and addiction. Even these verses display violence that takes place but also the desire to wake up and have more alcohol is the focus of the person. Such a substance does not bring life but death.

- **But take heed to yourselves and be on your guard, lest your hearts be overburdened and depressed (weighed down) with the giddiness and headache and nausea of self-indulgence, drunkenness, and worldly worries and cares pertaining to [the business of] this life, and [lest] that day come upon you suddenly like a trap or a noose. For it will come upon all who live upon the face of the entire earth. Luke 21:34-35 AMP**

Jesus warns against the self-indulgence, drunkenness, and worldly cares of this life that are ready to overburden and depress people. Some people drink alcohol due to depression when in reality this substance makes depression even worse. The Bible describes the true answer is to cast one's cares on Jesus Christ (**1 Peter 5:7; Psalm 55:22; Philippians 4:6**).

HONOR GOD, NOT FLESH

Christians are commanded to honor God with their lives, not live for their flesh. Partaking in alcohol is allowing the desires of the flesh to dominate and deny God.

- **A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (for if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. 1 Timothy 3:2-7 KJV**
- **For the bishop (an overseer) as God's steward must be blameless, not self-willed or arrogant or presumptuous; he must not be quick-tempered or given to drink or pugnacious (brawling, violent); he must not be grasping and greedy for filthy lucre (financial gain). Titus 1:7 AMP**

Paul's list, inspired writing by the Holy Spirit, written to Timothy and Titus displays the necessity to overcome the flesh and be a holy leader. This also includes women who lead as spiritual leaders (**Titus 2:3**). The lives of Christians should be clean and holy not compromised with fleshly desires or a worldly attitude toward sin.

- **Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 KJV**

Everything that Christians do should reflect the glory of God and not submit to the flesh. When the desire to sin arises the desire must be dealt with appropriately to remain in right standing with God.

- **And if your hand puts a stumbling block before you and causes you to sin, cut it off! It is more profitable and wholesome for you to go into life [that is really worthwhile] maimed than with two hands to go to hell (Gehenna), into the fire that cannot be put out.** Mark 9:43 AMP

The issue that has arisen for decades now is the compromise or condoning of many sins, including alcohol, weakening churches throughout the world. When sin is not dealt with appropriately it becomes less of an enemy and eventually becomes a friend. Christians should not willingly allow sin in their lives due to it already being a deceptive thing seeking to destroy God's people.

- **Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble.** Romans 14:20-21 NLT

Christians should put away such activities as having the appearance of drinking alcohol (1 Thessalonians 5:22; 3 John 11; Titus 2:7-8). Even if a believer would drink the less fermented wine it could cause others to give in to a stronger drink separating them from God's will. Paul is addressing the issue of not being a stumbling block to others who do not know better or know the full story. It is best to eliminate the story to prevent such issues and glorify God.

- **And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the Lord thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the Lord thy God hath blessed thee.** Deuteronomy 14:24 KJV

Here God is telling His people to take their tithe and convert it to money to make travel easier to worship God with. Their money after tithes can be used for their use (Deuteronomy 14:26). The hearts of God's people should seek to honor Him and not flesh.

- **Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and they presses shall burst out with new wine.** Proverbs 3:9-10 KJV

When God is honored His people will not lack for anything. This also requires His people to be holy and clean as they worship Him. Drinking alcohol leads to a dirty life and lifestyle.

- **And the Lord spake unto Aaron, saying, Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations: and that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean; and that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.**
Leviticus 10:8-11 KJV
- **Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.**
Romans 13:13 KJV
- **For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.**
Luke 1:15-16 KJV

God states throughout His Word for His people to be clean, holy, and honorable to Him in everything they do. God describes alcohol as part of this equation of being disobedient and unfit for a proper lifestyle of living for Him. God's people must deny this substance to honor God as He says and not by allowing the flesh to dominate their lives.

May people everywhere see the destruction of alcohol and the biblical warnings against such a substance.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT: ALCOHOL

LESSON 3

Why Drinking Alcohol is Wrong

After discussing the differences between the biblical process of winemaking, the modern process of winemaking, and the warnings of alcohol in the Bible, the point of why drinking alcohol (King James' strong drink, mixed wine, mingled wine, certain forms of wine, etc.) is wrong can be focused on. Remember, there are differences in the original languages regarding each of these drinks. Some KJV "wine" is fresh juice while others are intoxicating drinks. When the Word of God points out a straight line commandment it must be followed or sin is present.

DO NOT CONSUME INTOXICANTS

Over the next few verses, the word drunk appears as a strict warning of what not to be. Some people will argue that they do not get drunk, but that is a statement of opinion in modern ideology. **Drunk** is defined as being intoxicated, affected by intoxicants (a substance that excites or stupefies, a poison), or impaired.

While some think of being drunk as not being able to pass a sobriety test, the true implication is having any substance within one's system of this nature. If a person had one drop of poison within their system would they not state they have been poisoned? Why do so many fight to defend drinking alcohol yet say they are not drunk?

Intoxication takes place after 1 drink causing mild cognitive and physical impairment according to American Addiction Centers research published on August 16th, 2024. Research from a 2024 study at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri, found a 20% higher risk of premature death with only one alcoholic drink per day. Scientists agree this substance causes intoxication after one drink and leads to death yet some people are still determined to defend their use of alcohol.

Here is what the Bible has to say about this topic:

- **And the Lord said to Moses, say to the Israelites, when either a man or a woman shall make a special vow, the vow of a Nazarite, that is, one separated and consecrated to the Lord, *he shall separate himself from wine and strong drink; he shall drink no vinegar of wine or of strong drink, and shall drink no grape juice, or eat grapes, fresh or dried. All the days of his separation he shall eat nothing produced from the grapevine, not even the seeds or the skins.***

Numbers 6:1-4 AMP

God establishes this vow to reflect a sincerity of heart in honoring Him. The Nazarite vow was also declared over Samson before his birth (**Judges 13:4,7,14**). A vow of this magnitude took work and commitment to honor God.

It must be taken into consideration also that God originally wrote “Thou shalt not commit adultery” (**Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18; Leviticus 20:10**) but Jesus further expounded God’s meaning in not committing adultery in the heart (**Matthew 5:27-28**). As the Holy Spirit inspires the writers in the epistles there is more revelation upon God’s view regarding alcohol as well. The Nazarite vow was an outward declaration of abstaining from things to honor God. Although Christians may not live by the exact Nazarite vow they should be living clean and holy unto God with the same heart of devotion.

- **Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.**

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 KJV

Let’s examine this with all the pieces together. God tells Moses those who desire to be consecrated for Him can take the Nazarite vow. The Apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote that drunkards will not inherit the kingdom of God. A drunkard is defined as someone being intoxicated and affected by intoxicants with science confirming intoxication comes with **one drink**. Now the picture is more clear of why it is wrong to drink alcohol in the context of modern times. To ensure the accuracy of this doctrine, let’s examine more of what the Bible has to say about this topic.

- **When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.**

Galatians 5:19-21 NLT

The Bible clearly warns that the consumption of alcohol will ruin a walk with God. God desires for His people to receive what He has to offer and for them to be blessed.

- **Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.** **Ephesians 5:18 NLT**
- **It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.** **Romans 14:21: KJV**

More scripture covers the importance of turning to God rather than the substances the world offers. The world’s substances cannot fulfill a person’s life like God can. What God has to offer is wisdom, judgment, and righteousness. The sinful nature offers perversion, filthiness, and death.

- **It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.** Proverbs 31:4-5 KJV
- **Neither shall any priest drink wine when he enters the inner court.** Ezekiel 44:21 AMP

These verses reflect God's disdain for those who participate in such activity and lead others in the natural or the spiritual. Perversion has ruined many politicians, government leaders, ministries, and Christians. The key to each of these implosions is fleshly desires that were allowed to remain, including alcohol in many situations. Even Daniel as a government official and believer of God knew his ability to be successful was found in his devotion to God.

- **But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.** Daniel 1:8 KJV

This Old Testament man of God was determined to serve God with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength (**Mark 12:30**). Even before Jesus would come to declare this, Daniel was living it out. Being equipped with so many resources from God, there is no need to turn to substances of death but to use those resources for life.

Some people use the excuse of condoning alcohol due to Jesus turning water into wine. This reason would be invalid due to Jesus not turning water into the same substance as modern wine. He came to give life and life abundantly (**John 10:10**). Jesus does not contradict His Word by providing gallons of drunkenness, meaning strong drink that God warns against (**Isaiah 28:7-8; Proverbs 20:1**) when He is a giver of life, the true vine (**John 15:1-5**). This means the desire to drink modern alcohol is a fleshly desire not instituted by God.

As previously discussed, the biblical wine allowed by God was of little fermentation even at its highest point of 1-3% due to the inability to pasteurize juice. While God allowed this to help His people stay healthy, especially in the absence of clean drinking water, some still chose to disobey to follow fleshly desires. Just as God instituted sex, some people still choose to use it pervertedly outside of His guidelines. While the need to partake of biblical wine is no longer needed, some will disobey God in pursuing such carnality and declare scripture pervertedly while doing so. Following one's flesh while disobeying God is always a sin (**James 4:17**).

FORGIVENESS IS AVAILABLE

Once sin is exposed it is only right for hope to be restored. Forgiveness is found in God through Jesus Christ. In Him, life is found as a free gift. When a sin has been part of one's past that does not mean it has to remain as the dominant force in one's present. Just as any other sin, alcohol can be repented of and forgiven. Jesus is the only source of forgiveness.

- **For the wages which sin pays is death, but the [bountiful] free gift of God is eternal life through (in union with) Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23 AMP**

If sin is not repented of, forgiveness cannot be received. Those who are not forgiven of their sins must still face death as the wage of sin. Salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus Christ when repentance is present. *(For more lessons on repentance, see "The Doctrine of Repentance" on our website.)*

- **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 KJV**

Being cleansed is a benefit of seeking God in repentance. Those who desire to no longer participate in sin and instead turn to God will receive the benefits of serving God. Even when fleshly desires attempt to return they should be dealt with accordingly to not backslide against God. Once a person is forgiven of sin they can also set free from the guilt of those previous sins.

- **Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:11 NLT**

God commands that all people do not go toward sin but away from it. Those who have already turned to God are especially given the command to not go back to them. Having the doctrines established from the Word of God helps strengthen to continue to run a race for God and lay aside every weight and sin that tries to hinder (**Hebrews 12:1**).

May God's people understand the importance of abstinence from alcohol to live a holy and clean life before their God.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT: ALCOHOL

LESSON 4

The Lifestyle Associated with Alcohol

The lifestyles associated with alcohol are portrayed in various manners in movies and media but they are not as glamorous in real life. While some use alcohol in high-class society others use it in the slums reflecting a good time. In either scenario, the lifestyle that is associated with alcohol is not one of self-control or holiness.

UNRIGHTEOUS LIVING

God warns about the lifestyles associated with alcohol and how unholy they are. These lifestyles also lead to chaos, confusion, and more unclean living.

- **When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹envy, *drunkenness*, *wild parties*, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.**
Galatians 5:19-21 NLT

The desires of the flesh, when not brought into submission, birth sin and sin desires to multiply into more fleshly desires. The above verses display this type of attitude and how much the lusts of the flesh will begin to grow when not pruned in the heart. This is the exact opposite of how Christians are called to live.

- **He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.**
Proverbs 21:17 KJV

Those who live by their pleasures will give everything to have them. Although God will give those who follow Him the desires of their heart (**Psalm 37:4**), they live more for God than the pleasures of life. Wherever a person's treasure is, that is where their heart is (**Matthew 6:21**). When a person's heart begins to focus more on self, this is the recipe for destruction.

- **But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, and shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**
Matthew 24:48-51 KJV

When the idea of authority is no longer present for accountability, the flesh desires to pursue its own desires. The ideology of alcohol (or other sins) being permitted releases the accountability factor and sin multiplies within that person's life. Jesus Christ establishes Fivefold Ministers to assist Christians in becoming mature and helping the accountability

remain in producing clean and holy believers if they choose to use these gifts from Jesus (**Ephesians 4:11-15**).

- **Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them! And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the LORD, neither consider the operation of his hands.**

Isaiah 5:11-12 KJV

Some people follow strong drink each day. Even when at work, they hide it or are longing for it when they get off. It is what they think about because it owns them. Many times, not even consciously.

- **They threw dice to decide which of my people would be their slaves. They traded boys to obtain prostitutes and sold girls for enough wine to get drunk.**

Joel 3:3 NLT

These verses reflect the lustful passions associated with such sin and how it consumes anyone who will give it attention. Some people may say, "I would never do that," but many who are in this very situation said those same words before allowing this to enter into their lives. Those who choose to allow fleshly desires to dominate will reap the reward of that choice (**Romans 6:23**). It is best to not allow this substance to have entrance into one's life or repent before its grip gets even deeper.

PERVERTED LEADERS

Alcohol perverts leadership on any level. No leader is exempt from the effects of alcohol. To lead effectively, a person must be sober-minded. From cities to churches, there have been falls of leadership due to alcohol.

- **What sorrow awaits the proud city of Samaria – the glorious crown of the drunks of Israel. It sits at the head of a fertile valley, but its glorious beauty will fade like a flower. It is the pride of a people brought down by wine. ⁷Now, however, Israel *is led by drunks* who reel with wine and stagger with alcohol. The priests and prophets *stagger with alcohol* and *lose themselves in wine*. They reel when they see visions and stagger as they render decisions. ⁸Their tables are covered with vomit; filth is everywhere.**

Isaiah 28:1,7-8 NLT

When leaders have this ideology, the people follow suit. People reflect what they see and hear. Leaders of this caliber have multiplied this type of behavior because people see their leader conduct themselves in this manner, yet leaders are placed in their positions because they represent the people. Holy people of God must live by the Word of God, not fleshly desires.

- **It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.** Proverbs 31:4-5 KJV

Alcohol perverts judgment and does not bring good outcomes to those in need. Leaders, especially Christian leaders, should be wise and an example of righteousness no matter in what situation they are needed.

THE BLESSINGS OF NO ALCOHOL

The Bible also declares the blessings of the land and people who are under leaders who do not allow alcohol to pervert their judgment or be used in their lives.

- **Happy is the land whose king is a noble leader and whose leaders feast at the proper time to gain strength for their work, not to get drunk.** Ecclesiastes 10:17 NLT

Here, King Solomon acknowledges the blessing of leaders who do not get drunk but are appropriate. This lends itself to seeing leaders who did not follow this formula and did get drunk allowing chaos to ensue throughout the land. The proper formula for blessing is wisdom through a sober mind.

- **My child, listen and be wise: Keep your heart on the right course. Do not carouse with drunkards or feast with gluttons, for they are on their way to poverty, and too much sleep clothes them in rags.** Proverbs 23:19-21 NLT

Not allowing alcohol makes room for blessings, prosperity, and wisdom. The Bible warns not to fellowship with drunkards, much less be one. Christians must use wisdom and obey God's Word.

MISTAKES WERE MADE

Even within the Bible, there are people who got drunk and allowed mistakes to be made.

- **One day he drank some wine he had made, and he became drunk and lay naked inside his tent.** Genesis 9:21 NLT

After Noah's obedience to God in building the ark and saving his family, he still made the mistake of partaking in wine and getting drunk naked in his tent. What happened in his tent still affected his family causing a curse to come to one of his sons after the flood.

- **Woe to him who gives his neighbors drink, who pours out your bottle to them and adds to it your poisonous and blighting wrath and also makes them drunk, that you may look on their stripped condition and pour out foul shame [on their glory]!** Habakkuk 2:15 AMP

These verses display that the lifestyle of nakedness can be associated with drunkenness.

MOVING FORWARD FROM SIN

In the Old Testament, a family who had a person who did not turn from drunkenness or sin would bring the issue to others for intervention. Parents knew the severity of such an act of drunkenness and rebellion, but evil had to be dealt with severely. When submission and repentance were no longer present, mercy dried up leaving sin to be removed from among the people.

- **And they shall say unto the elders of his city, this our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a *drunkard*. And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.**

Deuteronomy 21:20-21 KJV

The modern outcome of the above verses would be to spend time in jail or another form of justice fitting to the crime committed. This is proper when rebellion is within the heart. An unrepentant person will not change until something gets their attention.

Praise God that mercy and grace are available through Jesus Christ to deliver people from such a past if they choose to submit to Him. The Bible expresses the blessing of moving forward from a lifestyle of alcohol. When the former drinking buddies of Christians see there is a change they may find it odd for a lack of the old behavior, but it is proper in being a child of God to move forward from sin.

- **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, revelings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you.**

1 Peter 4:3-4 KJV

Once a Christian moves forward from sin they are to not return to it. Confronting the fleshly desires within one's life keeps a person active enough, so a believer living for God should not add to the hindrances by willfully sinning. A holy lifestyle produced by faith pleases God. Alcohol does not bring a holy lifestyle so it is best not to partake of this substance to begin with.

May Christians understand the lifestyles associated with alcohol and determine to not live this type of unholy life.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT: ALCOHOL

LESSON 5

Wine Used in Allegories and Parables

Throughout the Bible, wine is used in allegories to express thoughts or ideas God wanted to share. Although some people will read these verses at face value to condone their desire for sinful living, the proper context paints a picture for people to understand another concept God is expressing using natural things. Let's examine some of these verses.

SALVATION OF GOD

Even the concept of salvation is expressed through the allegory of wine and milk. What God has to offer people is free and is a choice for anyone willing to partake in this gift.

- **Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk it's all free!** **Isaiah 55:1 NLT**

Isaiah describes the free salvation God offers to those who will serve Him. As previously discussed, wine (at 1-3% alcoholic content) would have been a staple drink at the time used to satisfy thirst. For God to share the price of His gift and the ability to quench a person's spiritual thirst, He used this expression they would understand. Even Jesus used an expression the people would know.

- **And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved.** **Matthew 9:17 NLT**
- **And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; if he does, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost and the bottles destroyed; but new wine is to be put in new (fresh) wineskins.** **Mark 2:22 AMP**
- **And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.** **Luke 5:37-38 KJV**

In each of these Gospel accounts, Jesus discusses salvation as a parable reflecting repentance. In the preceding verses in each of these books, Jesus says, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (**Luke 5:32; Mark 2:17; Matthew 9:12**). These verses reflect becoming a new creation in Jesus Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:22**). Although some attempt to use these verses for fleshly desires, understanding the proper context helps people become new in Christ.

PROVISION OF GOD

God provides for His people. When describing how He will provide, God tells them in ways they will understand. People who do not take time to study the Word of God and the

proper context will not understand what God is accurately saying to His people, no matter the subject.

- **The Lord has sworn by His right hand and by His mighty arm: Surely I will not again give your grain as food for your enemies, and [the invading sons of] aliens shall not drink your new wine for which you have toiled; But they who have gathered it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and they who have brought in the vintage shall drink it [at the feasts celebrated] in the courts of My sanctuary (the temple of My holiness).** **Isaiah 62:8-9 AMP**

Here Isaiah is painting the picture with his prayer for Jerusalem. This includes enemies obtaining the people of God's grain and wine. These symbolize their hard work and their provisions being taken away from them and given to their enemies. The opposite is declared: those who gather the grain will eat it and give the Lord the praise. Those who bring in the vintage (a season's produce of grapes) will drink it in God's courts. God is having the prophet declare the provision will remain for the people.

- **And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.** **Amos 9:14 KJV**

Through Amos, God describes the work His people will do in captivity, but they will have provision during their troubles. Although His people continue to disobey Him and place themselves into trouble, God uses words to let them know He is still with them.

- **And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil. And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.** **Joel 2:24-25 KJV**

God uses this allegory to describe the restoration of His people. When God's people turn to Him and serve Him, He restores them to honor. This comes at the price of the people humbling themselves first. God will not contradict His word and honor the prideful but must resist them. When people humble themselves, God can honor those who call upon Him.

- **He waters the mountains from His upper rooms; the earth is satisfied and abounds with the fruit of His works. He causes vegetation to grow for the cattle, and all that the earth produces for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food out of the earth. And wine that gladdens the heart of man, to make his face shine more than oil, and bread to support, refresh, and strengthen man's heart.** **Psalms 104:13-15 AMP**

- **And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the**

increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee. Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.

Deuteronomy 7:13-14 KJV

Again, these verses display God supplying the needs of His people. Psalm declares God's power through the creation, while Deuteronomy declares the privilege of holiness. Both can only be enjoyed by those who know and serve God because God has no obligation to those who do not.

CELEBRATION OF GOD

The Bible also declares the celebration of the Lord, that is yet to come, by expressing it with an allegory.

- **And on this Mount [Zion] shall the Lord of hosts make for all peoples a feast of rich things [symbolic of His coronation festival inaugurating the reign of the Lord on earth, in the wake of a background of gloom, judgment, and terror], a feast of wines on the lees – of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined.**
Isaiah 25:6 AMP

When Jesus comes to Mount Zion, this will cause a celebration of victory for God's people. As often displayed as a feast, the gathering of God's people is reflected in this prophecy. Prophets can only use the symbols they know or understand to paint pictures for the people. Wine is included in celebrations and feasts, so when the prophet saw this in his vision he used it in his description to convey the scene of what God revealed.

WRATH OF GOD

Just as there is a celebration of God to be discussed in allegories, there is the wrath of God described in allegories.

- **Gone are the joys of wine and song; alcoholic drink turns bitter in the mouth.**
Isaiah 24:9 NLT

Here, the destruction of the Earth is described. The wrath of God is so impactful that alcohol can no longer numb the senses to what is going on. The sinful substances that once allowed people to enjoy sin more now have no effect because they must face the destruction of their choice and God's holiness.

PERSONIFICATION

In this final example of this lesson, a grapevine is treated as a person. When non-living things are treated as humans, especially when asked to lead people, there is a serious problem.

- **Then they said to *the grapevine*, You be our king! But the grapevine also refused, saying, Should I quit producing the wine that cheers both God and people, just to wave back and forth over the trees? **Judges 9:12-13 NLT****

After Joshua, the pastor taking Moses' place, is gone, judges begin to lead God's people. The people began to set their hearts on having a king, further removing themselves from the pastors they once had. These verses display the heart of the people being desperate enough to describe themselves as asking a grapevine to be their king. People looking to excuse themselves from God's Word or God's leaders will do drastic things to find their solutions. These verses also symbolize the people looking to take something out of its ordained purpose and use it for their own desired use.

CONCLUSION

Christians must read the Bible to understand the proper context. The less people know not only what the Word of God says but the context of it, the more Christians will be deceived in their religion. True Christians walk with God, which requires knowing the Word and its context.

May Christians everywhere know what the Bible says about alcohol, wine, and their proper context within the Word of God.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT: ALCOHOL

LESSON 6

Making Jesus Someone He is Not

Even in the days of Jesus, people were attempting to make Him someone He was not. Modern alcoholic “Christians” like to declare Jesus was a drinker and promoted modern alcohol. This could not be further from the truth. Then again those who did not like Jesus confronting their sins tried to make Jesus someone He was not.

BIBLICAL MISCLAIMS OF JESUS

The religious people of Jesus’ time made misclaims about who Jesus Christ was. When He confronted their sin or hypocrisy, they began to falsely accuse Him or make claims of who He was but with a perversion of the truth.

- **The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, He’s a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners! But wisdom is shown to be right by the lives of those who follow it. Luke 7:34-35 NLT**
- **The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, He’s a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners! But wisdom is shown to be right by its results. Matthew 11:19 NLT**

The religious leaders made sure to point out what Jesus did and who He was with even though they exaggerated both aspects of these points.

- **For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together. And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying, We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands. But neither so did their witness agree together. Mark 14:56-59 KJV**

These people were paid to lie at Jesus’ trial to have Him crucified even though they could not agree on their lies. It is amazing to see some demons never change.

MODERN MISCLAIMS OF JESUS

There are many modern misclaims regarding who Jesus Christ is. These claims are centered around ideas of applying sinful desires to Christian doctrines to please the flesh. Jesus did not come to bring pleasure to the flesh but salvation and righteousness for sinners through repentance.

1. *Jesus is not the only way to God.*

This is not a legitimate claim to any person who is a decent Bible student.

- **Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.** John 14:6 KJV

- **And there is salvation in and through no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by and in which we must be saved.**

Acts 4:12 AMP

Degrading Jesus to “a” way to God and not “the” way to God allows room for other false doctrines to take root within the heart. This is usually followed by allowing sin to enter because of the lack of submission to Jesus Christ.

2. Jesus accepts good deeds as salvation.

Even Jesus stated that everyone must be born again and repent to receive salvation. God sent His Son to preach repentance and to make repentance a personal process with God. Good deeds were not part of this process, or the Mosaic Law would have fulfilled this requirement.

- **From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.** Matthew 4:17 KJV
- **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.** Revelation 3:19-20 KJV

The very example to all Christians, the Lord, and Master of every Christian’s life preached repentance. Christians are to be like Him. Good deeds do not equal salvation; repentance leads to salvation.

3. Jesus accepts sinners with no expectation to change.

Jesus loves everyone and welcomes all to come to repentance but He expects everyone to take on His image in being children of God as He is the Son of God.

- **The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.** 2 Peter 3:9 KJV
- **You, therefore, must be perfect [growing into complete maturity of godliness in mind and character, having reached the proper height of virtue and integrity], as your heavenly Father is perfect.** Matthew 5:48 AMP

Each of these verses displays change. One reflects a change of heart from sinfulness to godliness, while the other demonstrates the necessity of growing in character as a Christian.

4. Jesus allows sin without repentance because He gives grace.

Jesus preached repentance as part of the salvation process.

- **And the time of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.** Acts 17:30 KJV
- **I tell you, No; but unless you repent (change your mind for the better and heartily amend your ways, with abhorrence of your past sins), you will all likewise perish and be lost eternally.** Luke 13:3 AMP

The importance of these misclaims, especially in modern times, reflects the heart to pervert Jesus into a different person to fit a lifestyle pleasing to the flesh. Those who use these misclaims will partake in sin without conviction, creating a calloused heart while placing a fake Christian label on their actions. This leads us to the biggest source of debate and arguments used by lukewarm Christians for their allowance of alcohol.

JESUS' WINE MIRACLE

This passage of the Bible tends to be the favorite verses of alcoholic “Christians”. Between Jesus turning water into wine and not judging others (**Matthew 7:1**), that is about the only scriptures lukewarm Christians have written on the tablet of their hearts. Let’s look at this passage in detail.

- **And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: and both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.** John 2:1-3 KJV

The usage of the word wine in this passage is not strong drink, mixed wine, mingled wine, or vinegar but their staple drink of wine (1-3% alcoholic content, if that). The Greek word for wine here is *oinos*, which is mixed with water as God prescribes. This already is breaking apart the foundation of the alcoholic “Christian” excuse.

- **Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. His mother saith unto the servants, whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.** John 2:4-6 KJV

The waterpots used here was the same pots used to wash the people’s hands and feet. There is more to this miracle than water being turned into wine, but some people stay too buzzed to see the true point.

- **Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the**

water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, 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.

John 2:7-10 KJV

The governor of the feast noted that the drink that Jesus had made was of better quality and more valuable than the wine used at the beginning of the feast. He also states “when men have well drunk,” which means when everyone has already been filled up and does not want any more, that is when the host normally brings out the worst they have because people are less likely to drink. Jesus’ wine was the best because it was from the true vine.

The real miracle in this situation is Jesus telling servants to take dirty vessels, empty them out of their old substance, fill them completely full of water, and see the fruit of the true vine produced in the vessel that would have never been used for such a purpose otherwise. Here is the explanation. When people will submit and obey Jesus Christ as their master and pour the dirty, unclean substance that is in their life, allow the washing of the water of the Word of God to fill them up completely, and also allow themselves to be dipped out of for the use of God’s kingdom to serve others, the product is a sweetness that people notice is different than anything else they have experienced. This is also the picture of evangelism with Christians as the servants seeing the fruit of their obedience as people’s lives become a sweeter substance rather than remaining a dirty water pot.

Even after reading this passage in John 2, no verse discusses Jesus drinking the wine that was made for this wedding. One can assume this may be the case, but now that person would be adding to the Word of God. If there was another verse that some alcoholic “Christians” would neglect, it would be an abstinence verse.

- **But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom. Matthew 26:29 KJV**

Jesus has communion with His disciples and explains to them that He will not partake of the fruit of the vine until Heaven. This describes abstinence from wine, even the God-prescribed version. If some people desire to be like Jesus why do they not live this verse out and just wait to celebrate in Heaven? Would it not be better to wait if something is questionable and make it into Heaven without it than to miss Heaven because of partaking in it now?

- **For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Mark 8:36-37 KJV**

May Christians understand what the Bible says about alcohol, who Jesus really is, and not change the Word to fit them, but change themselves to fit the Word.