

Bible Reasons Against Alcohol

Verse By Verse Exposition

By D. A. Waite, Jr., MA, MLA

sermonaudio.com

Bible Text: Proverbs 23:29-35

Preached on: Sunday, September 11, 2011

Bible For Today Baptist Church

900 Park Avenue

Collingswood, New Jersey 08108

Website: http://www.biblefortoday.org/bft_church.htm

Online Sermons: www.sermonaudio.com/biblefortoday

Now while I am arranging my papers which are hot off the press—I was burning the midnight oil last night till around midnight—so anything that I say today was not because of you. In other words, I wasn't picking on anybody. I had no idea who was going to be here. I wasn't even sure if I was going to be here. We had high water. Roads were closed in our area. We traveled three hours this morning. Thank the Lord the roads were clear. As I suggested to my wife, I think it was worth the three hour drive just to hear brother Carroll tickle those ivories. Amazing. That is my great... that is my grandma's piano and it has never sounded better. Who would have guessed that he is pushing 90 and still can... and still playing beautifully.

Now I have a time limit. I have already used a minute of my time. So I am in trouble already and haven't even gotten started.

But let me ask you a question. Does anyone know why Collingswood does not sell alcoholic beverages? I confirmed that is still true. What is the reason?

What is it?

Ok.

All right. Now it is my understanding that Knight's Park was a bequest with a condition. The park near the center of Collingswood was bequeathed by Mr. Knight under at least one condition. The only one that I know of is that as long as Collingswood remained dry and that it is alcohol free, that park would remain part of Collingswood. Should Collingswood ever begin to sell liquor, that park would go to his heirs apparently.

Now that is still true. Now although that makes Collingswood a unique town, most towns around us, of course, are selling alcohol. You can walk across the border from Collingswood very easily and buy alcoholic beverages.

Now my subject today is biblical reasons for abstaining from alcoholic beverages.

Now our text generally is found in Proverbs 23:29-35. If you have a copy of the draft message that was in the racks, you can follow along if you want to. If there were only two verses in the Bible on this subject, they could be Proverbs 23:31 and 32. I will tell you why. Verse 31 has a command.

“Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.”¹

This command forbids us to even look at יין (yah'-yin), wine.

Now sometimes יין (yah'-yin) was fermented. Sometimes it was non fermented. But when יין (yah'-yin) demonstrated that it had those tiny bubbles or those tiny bubbles were in the wine that supposedly make me so happy, make me feel fine, when those tiny bubbles were present you weren't even to look at that beverage, let alone drink it.

And the second major verse in his passage, verse 32, tells us the nature of alcoholic wine.

“At the last it biteth like a serpent [that is, it is poisonous], and stingeth like an adder.”²

It paralyzes and debilitates. If these were the only two verses in the Bible on the subject, they would be sufficient. But there are more.

Let me hasten to mention that alcohol was not discovered until the Middle Ages when a Muslim, we would call him a chemist, was able to distill alcohol from, I believe it was fermented wine. He discovered that this substance that he was able to distill—and, by the way, alcohol will distill out at 170 degrees. Water boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit. Alcohol boils out at 170 degrees Fahrenheit. So you could take a liquid and you could heat it to 170 degrees, approximately, and the alcohol would vaporize. All that would be left would be no alcoholic.

He was able to trap that distillate. He determines that distillate which he called alcohol was a cohol which in his language meant poison. It was an alcohol, a certain kind of poison. It was named correctly from the very beginning. It was a poison.

The ancients did not know why drinking certain beverages caused people to have certain unusual effects. They thought it was, perhaps, the spirit of the gods that was causing people. But they did learn quickly that you could remove that effect by boiling. They didn't know why, but it worked.

Let me go back to the actual text here. I wanted to mention that that alcohol itself is not a term in the Bible. There was no single word for alcohol and so God couldn't say, “Stop, don't drink any alcohol.”

¹ Proverbs 23:31.

² Proverbs 23:32.

But he had to use words referring to wine and cider as Wycliffe calls strong drink. He translates it “cider” in several occasions.

And so what we have here is a topic called biblical reasons for abstaining from alcoholic beverages.

Now I am not sure about what this church covenant has in it, but does this church covenant have an alcohol abstention section in it or no? Think so? Ok. I know our church covenant, church I am a member of, it is an old one. Most of those like that go back to the 40s or 50s, have a specific agreement that we will abstain from the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages. That was a popular thing at one time. No longer. Most churches have removed that from their covenants. At one time there was an agreement.

The first thing I would like to mention is that the first biblical reason—and I have about 25—for abstaining from alcoholic beverages is our church covenant requires it.

You say, “Well, why is that important?”

Well, if you agree to gather as a body of believers that you are not going to drink alcoholic beverages, that helps others who may have come from an alcoholic background and others who may become alcoholics if they are not careful. If we promise before God to abstain from the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages as a condition of church membership, we must honor our agreement as long as we maintain our membership in that congregation.

What does Numbers 30 verse two say?

“If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.”³

Deuteronomy 23:21-23 says about the same thing.

When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee. But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee.⁴

You don’t have to make a promise. When you make a promise before God you need to keep it. And if you have made a covenant with your church congregation that you are not going to drink alcoholic beverage that is a good reason for not drinking alcoholic beverages.

Another reason for not drinking alcoholic beverages, perhaps our parents require it. And that is not bad. My parents... I don’t know if there was ever an issue. We didn’t drink.

³ Numbers 30:2.

⁴ Deuteronomy 23:21-22.

Some relatives did. We didn't. That was something we just didn't do so it never occurred to me. But in some cases our parents may say, "Thou shalt not drink alcoholic beverages."

We should honor such parental wishes especially if we are living under our parents' home, eating their food or otherwise enjoying the fruits of their labor. We know the commands, Exodus chapter 20 verse 12.

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."⁵

Ephesians 6:2-3.

Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.⁶

There is nothing wrong with parents looking out for our best interests and forbidding such things as the poison which is rightly named alcohol, a particular specific poison named that way by its very discoverer.

Matthew 15:4 requires honoring fathers and mothers, so does Mark 10:19.

Ephesians 6:1 says:

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right."⁷

Colossians 3:20, a similar thing.

"Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."⁸

Certainly things that are biblical and right and proper and certainly that don't contradict the Scriptures we should always obey our parents and we certainly should honor them all of our life.

Now in the Bible there was a group of people called the Rechabites. God commended the Rechabites for obeying the voice of their father who was Jonadab the son of Rechab. And Jonadab the son of Rechab commanded his children not to drink wine, יין (yah'-yin).

⁵ Exodus 20:12.

⁶ Ephesians 6:2-3.

⁷ Ephesians 6:1.

⁸ Colossians 3:20.

In Jeremiah chapter 35 verses one through 19 the Lord told Jeremiah to go to the house of the Rechabites and to offer them יין (yah'-yin), wine to drink. And Jeremiah obeys and in verse five he says:

“And I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites pots full of wine יין (yah'-yin).”⁹

“For Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no [wine יין (yah'-yin)], neither ye, nor your sons for ever.”¹⁰

They weren't to drink wine according to their father's commands.

Well, God was impressed. He said, “ Because the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have performed the commandment of their father, which he commanded them...”¹¹

...and yet my own people have disobeyed me, their heavenly father, my wicked people who disobey me will die in their sins, but the Rechabites, the sons of Rechab will not fail, he says, will not fail to have a man stand before me forever.

Now not that parental rules are more important than God's rules, but they do have some strong value and God respected it and so did God's prophet. The determination of Jonadab the son of Rechab and his descendants refusing to drink wine.

Another reason we may abstain from alcoholic beverages we may fear the ravages of alcoholism. I mean, after all, the only sure way to avoid becoming an alcoholic is total abstinence, period. There was no other certain way to avoid alcoholism.

For decades the odds remained just about the same. Ten percent of those taking that first drink will become alcoholics. And we don't know who those 10 percent are. If there are 10 people on this side of the room, let's just say, one person will become an alcoholic out of those 10 just by taking that first drink.

Now we don't want to risk that. Now these figures have stayed the same since the 40s and 50s and even I checked recently, they are still the same. That is what the figures happen to be. And we don't know who that person is who will become an alcoholic by taking that first drink. The only solution, don't take the first drink and you will never become an alcoholic, real simple.

Others, perhaps, refuse to drink alcoholic beverages because they fear breaking God's commandments against killing or murdering. You may not know this, but those under the influence of alcohol kill intentionally or accidentally at a much higher rate than those

⁹ Jeremiah 35:5.

¹⁰ Jeremiah 35:6.

¹¹ Jeremiah 35:16.

who are not intoxicated. Those are cold, hard facts. In fact, the death causing rate of alcohol impaired individuals is astronomical.

Furthermore, although alcohol may not be listed as the cause of death, each sip of booze—it is a slang term for alcohol—each sip of booze causes permanent damage to nerve, brain and other vital cells and ultimately leads to death. Drinking this liquid poison—that is what alcohol is. Alcohol means poison. Drinking this liquid poison is a form of self murder that can kill in a few minutes or in a few years. If a self murderer is in a hurry, a quick 10 ounce gulp of whiskey—I measured this. It holds exactly 10 ounces. You take this much whiskey, you drink it down like that and if you are a 120 pound female you will be dead within a few minutes.

That is all it takes.

If alcohol weren't so profitable to the federal government and the state governments it would be banned today as deadly, a deadly poison, exactly as God's Word says and exactly as the first discoverer called it, an alcohol, a poison, this much.

And if she is really in a hurry, this 120 pound female, I just picked her at random, if she is really in a hurry pure alcohol, 100 percent alcohol, not 60 percent whiskey, six ounces, a juice glass, again, within a matter of minutes.

There are five stages you go through, but you are dead. And, of course, if you weigh a little more you can drink a little bit more, but either way it is a poison.

Another reason why we may abstain from alcoholic beverages is because we fear breaking God's commandments against idolatry.

Alcohol, as I am sure you may know, has become a god for millions of Americans. Their home bars are a shrine to their god and fashionable taverns are their places of public worship. Millions value booze more than they value anything else and they look to alcohol as their solution to all their problems, not God, but their god alcohol is the solution to all their problems.

Another reason why we may abstain from alcoholic beverages is that we don't want to deny the Christian faith and become worse than an infidel.

You say, "Well, how does that work out?"

Well, if we continue to escape our troubles—which is what some people do when they are drinking—enhance our self esteem—some of the early results of alcohol intoxication—and loosen up our moral scruples, another early reaction to intoxication, if we continue to escape our troubles, enhance our self esteem and loosen up our moral scruples through intoxication, much of our time, wealth and resources will be redirected towards worshipping this new God. Soon we will find ourselves increasingly unable to provide for those living under our own roof.

When our lust for liquor causes us to fail in this basic responsibility, we have denied the Christian faith and become worse than unbelievers who often do provide for their own.

What does 1 Timothy say?

“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”¹²

Furthermore, we may choose to abstain from alcoholic beverages because we care about our fellow believers. That is important. Those who care about fellow believers and just humans in general will abstain from alcoholic beverages.

Why? I already hinted at it earlier, because some are former alcoholics for whom one drink will send them right back to alcoholism. Because some are former alcoholics and others potential alcoholics, our example of abstinence may keep fellow believers and others from the snare of alcoholism. After all, we must never forget that one out of every 10 people who takes the first drink becomes an alcoholic. That includes beer, table wine all the way up to hard spirits.

What does Romans 14:21 say? A very important verse.

“It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine [that is the word οἶνος (oy’-nos,)] nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended [scandalized], or is made weak.”¹³

If anything I do weakens a brother, scandalizes a brother or causes that brother to stumble we shouldn’t do it. He even mentions wine here.

Another reason why we may wish to abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages is we simply want to avoid the destructive physical, mental, emotional and spiritual effects of alcohol.

Chemists tell us that alcohol is a cellular poison that begins to destroy brain, nerve and other tissues with the very first sip.

Proverbs 23:29-35, our passage for the day declares that intoxicating beverages cause sorrow, contention, slurred speech, needless injuries, impaired vision and more. Booze bites like a venomous serpent and stings like a deadly adder. It goes hand in hand with seductive wenches and sordid words. It removes stability. It takes away feeling and erases memory. And it is so addictive that despite its physical, mental and emotional toll, the boozier craves its cruel solace again and again. The only way to avoid such toxic misery is to obey the clarion command of this passage.

¹² 1 Timothy 5:8.

¹³ Romans 14:21.

When its reddening, bubbling froth reveals its toxic nature, take no longing look at this kind of wine יַיִן (yah'-yin) or wine. And never let it pass your lips.

What does Proverbs 23:29-35 say?

I will read it again. It begins with a series of questions.

“Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?”¹⁴

These are all physical manifestations of intoxication, among many others. In fact, I have a list of.... from secular chemists and physicians who go through the stages of intoxication. It starts with the very first sip and progresses eventually to death. And we must not kid ourselves. Most... many people cannot control going from the first sip to death depending on their condition. Some may stop because they collapse. But if they would stay conscious they might drink until they are dead.

The questions are asked. The answer is:

“They that tarry long at the wine...”¹⁵

In those days intoxicating wine יַיִן (yah'-yin), intoxicating wine in Palestine was relatively... it may have been five percent. It could go as high as 12% through natural fermentation. The reason you would have to spend a long time at it is it wasn't as potent. It was like more like beer today.

But you could get drunk from the first sip because there is alcohol even in a five percent solution.

If you tarry long at the wine, if you seek mixed wine where you mix in other poisons to get the buzz faster, then you can get the intoxication effects you want soon.

You say, “Why would somebody want intoxication?”

Well, in the early stages it is wonderful. You think you are great. It improves your self confidence. You feel your mood is enhanced. You feel great. You are Mr. personality. You think you are prettier or handsomer than you are, but you are not. You are the same person. You think you are the life of the party, but you are not. You are a big joke.

In our own mind we are convinced that the early effects are wonderful.

But I am off the subject.

¹⁴ Proverbs 23:29.

¹⁵ Proverbs 23:30.

The command is:

“Look not thou upon the wine [don’t look at the wine 𐤆𐤍 (yah’- yin)] when it is red [when it reddens], when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it produces those tiny bubbles in the wine].”¹⁶

Why?

Because at the end:

“At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.”¹⁷

And when we move into those latter stages of intoxication, we begin to see things that may not be there.

“Thine eyes shall behold strange women.”¹⁸

Maybe they are there, maybe they are not.

“...and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, [as you progress towards deeper intoxication] thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea [not a very stable place to lie down], or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.”¹⁹

A very unstable place, climb up a 100 foot mast and lie down there, not very stable.

And, of course, what will you say if you are in this stage of intoxication?

“They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick.”²⁰

A little loss of memory.

“...they have beaten me, and I felt it not.”²¹

Loss of feeling. And then despite the ravaging effects of intoxication, the question is:

“When shall I awake?”²²

This is the stupor.

¹⁶ Proverbs 23:31.

¹⁷ Proverbs 23:32.

¹⁸ Proverbs 23:33.

¹⁹ Proverbs 23:33-34.

²⁰ Proverbs 23:35.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

“I will seek it yet again.”²³

The addictive nature. You like the buzz. You like the high. You like especially the early stages. So you go right back to it again and again and again until it destroys your body and maybe other people.

Another reason why we may not drink alcoholic beverages is because we know our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and we don't want to risk defiling or destroying those bodies even a little. To avoid dire consequence and reap divine blessings, we choose to glorify God with our bodies and spirits.

What does 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 17 say? It asks a question.

“Know ye not that ye are the temple...?”²⁴ the holy place, the holy of holies of God? The word ναός (nah-os'). “... and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile [that means destroys or corrupts] the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”²⁵

It is repeated in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”²⁶

We don't own our bodies. They belong to God. Therefore we should not [?] or damage or destroy our bodies knowingly. We do enough accidentally, but not knowingly.

“For ye are bought with a price.”²⁷

God owns us. Therefore instead contaminating or desecrating or destroying our bodies, we should glorify God in our bodies and our spirits which are also God's.

Another reason why we may abstain from alcoholic beverages is because we are believer priests always serving in the Spirit filled temple of our bodies. And as spiritual priests always on duty we must abstain from wine and strong drink, יין (yah'-yin) and שכר (shay-kawr').

1 Peter 2:9 and Revelation 20 tell us that we are priests.

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people,”²⁸ and it goes on.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ 1 Corinthians 3:16.

²⁵ 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.

²⁶ 1 Corinthians 6:19.

²⁷ 1 Corinthians 6:20.

²⁸ 1 Peter 2:9.

Revelation 20 verse six tells us that those who have part in the first resurrection over whom the second death has no power, “they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”²⁹

Why is it important to know that we are believer priests? Because of what we see in Leviticus chapter 10 verses eight through 11.

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.³⁰

Three good reasons they were not to drink intoxicants while on duty.

If we are believer priests, and we are, and if our body is the temple of the Spirit of God, and it is, we are always on duty. We are always, you might say, priests in the temple, so to speak. And, hence, that is the suggestion as to why we shouldn't drink intoxicating beverages.

Another reason for not drinking intoxicating beverages already anticipated in the previous reference, it is because we believe that we believers are not only priests, but kings destined to reign with Christ. And as kings we must neither drink wine nor strong drink lest our judgment be clouded or God's law forgotten.

Revelation one and Revelation five tell us that we are kings and priests. God has made us that we are made unto God kings and priests and so reign on earth. And Proverbs 31 explains why that is important.

Proverbs 31 verses four through five tells us:

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.³¹

Do you want a judge or a king? Do you want a president who is a boozier? Do you want a pastor or anyone who is a king spiritually speaking to be drinking? They forget the law of God. They pervert justice.

Nobody wants that. In fact, that is the point.

²⁹ Revelation 20:6.

³⁰ Leviticus 10:8-11.

³¹ Proverbs 31:4-5.

Another reason why we abstain from alcoholic beverages is because we know that drunkards—this is very important—drunkards have no place in the kingdom of God. And we don't want to risk our eternal souls by taking the first fateful step on the road to intoxication.

Is it possible to moderately dabble in adultery, fornication, lasciviousness, homosexuality, pedophilia, idolatry, witchcraft, covetousness, thievery, extortion or murder without actually committing the sin? By the way these sins are all mentioned in association with drunkenness in the later verses.

The Bible, for example, says, "Flee fornication," one of the sins in this list. It does not say gaze upon it, lust after it, cozy up to it, sample it, enjoy it moderately.

And yet why do millions of professing Christians find nothing wrong with looking longingly at intoxicating beverages even though the Bible says don't look at it, let alone drink it.

Why do millions of [?] Christians find nothing wrong with looking longingly at intoxicating beverages, embracing them, fondling them, swirling them around, sipping them, swallowing them, savoring the relaxing euphoria, enjoying the life of the party buzz with no thought at all that they are really, get this, legally intoxicated in several countries of the world and more importantly in the eyes of God.

I don't know what God's blood alcohol level limit is for being intoxicated, but there are literally 15 countries in the world have a zero toleration including Romania and Hungary. You have any alcohol in your blood you are legally drunk.

Our country has the second... the most liberal blood alcohol level in the world. We are tied. There is only one country, Swaziland, that has a more liberal one than us. It has to do with money where the booze is made.

What does Galatians 5:19 say?

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.³²

That is why I don't want to dabble with any of these sins. We don't want to be moderate in any of these sins. We abstain from them, stay as far away from as possible, lest we be guilty in this case of intoxication which I believe and I am not the only one. Chemists tell us beginning with the very first step.

³² Galatians 5:19-21.

That God takes that drunkenness, we are drunken ever time we take a sip of booze, every single time.

Forget about the US limit. If we take the 15 countries that have zero tolerance, intoxication begins the first sip. That is what they say. I wonder if God agrees with them, not with that.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 says a similar thing.

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, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.³³

You say, “Well, what hope is there? Isn’t everybody guilty of these sins?”

Perhaps yes. And notice the good news.

“And such were some of you.”³⁴

God saves people from every kind of sin including drunkenness. When he saves you out of drunkenness, out of adultery, you don’t go back.

“And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”³⁵

With the exception of Swaziland, I will say it again, no other country in the world tolerates a higher blood alcohol level of intoxication than the United States of America. Now there are 15 others tied with us. It weakens the point so I won’t mention it.

At least one nation, at least 15 nations, I made a mistake. At least 15 nations including Romania and Hungary consider any trace of alcohol in the blood to be legal intoxication and 45 more countries criminalize blood alcohol levels of 0.01 to 0.05 percent.

Is God using the American standard for intoxication or is he using the world standards? Or is he using his own standards? Does he have zero tolerance, too? Possibly he does.

No wonder Timothy was a water drinker. And no wonder Paul had to almost beat him over the head to get him to take a little, not drink, take a little οὔνοσ (oy’-nos), a little for medicinal purposes for his stomach ailments and his often infirmities. Timothy resisted. Probably we should, too.

³³ 1 Corinthians 6:8-10.

³⁴ 1 Corinthians 6:11.

³⁵ Ibid.

Another reason we may not drink intoxicating beverages is because intoxicating beverages are so deceptive and addicting that the wise fear their seductive grip.

Many of today's professing Christians practice and advocate the moderate use of alcohol and social drinking. It is very rampant. Despite the deceptive and toxic nature of this merciless poison, ironically the vast majority of people cited for drunk driving in this country are, quote, unquote, moderate drinkers, clearly unaware how deceived by booze they are.

According to Proverbs 20 verse one intoxicating beverages have the power to deceive or lead astray. Although they masquerade as an innocent and lovable teddy bear they are, in fact, raging beasts, howling for the next kill. And while ravaging their next victim see how they mock and jeer and taunt.

To see fools welcome booze with open throats while the wise flee it like the plague.

What does Proverbs 20 verse one say to support what I just said?

“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”³⁶

They may say we are uncool because we don't drink intoxicating beverages. Well, the Bible says they are not wise if they do.

Researchers identify six general stages of intoxication or alcohol poisoning. And, by the way, it is called alcohol poisoning.

What do you think intoxication means? Toxic means poison. If you are intoxicated with the first sip, and we are, we begin to notice the poisoning effects?

The poisonous effects at first appear wonderful, but they are still poisonous effects. The first stages, the first stage of intoxication or alcohol poisoning, number one, euphoria. Number two, lethargy. Number three, confusion. Number four, stupor. Number five, coma and number six death.

Now alcohol is a deadly poison. These researchers also note that the subtle effects of alcohol intoxication can be detected from the very first sip. Not my idea. It is the idea of chemists who study this.

The progressive... and biologists.

The progressive and deceptive effects of alcohol poisoning are described as follows.

³⁶ Proverbs 20:1.

First there is mood improvement or euphoria. I am feeling better about things. Things aren't as bad as they used to be. This is great. Everyone loves that effect.

Next there is relaxation. Had a tough day? Take a sip of the bubbly. Relax.

Next, self... rising self confidence. You feel better about yourself.

Boy, I have a full head of hair. Forget about looking in the mirror. I am 6' 7". Really I am only six feet tall. I have no belly at all. Whoops, don't bother looking. Everything is wonderful. My wife hasn't been diagnosed with cancer. She is fine.

Well, she is fine now, thank the Lord.

My dad and mom are not well into their 80s. They are actually young whippersnappers and they are...

I mean, I am getting off the subject. Self confidence. That wasn't even self confidence.

And then I was going to the next stage already, an increase in talkativeness. I was going wild with talking. [?] I am the life of the party and I am a fun person high fiving everybody or whatever they do at parties. I don't go to parties, never liked them.

And then the next this sounds dangerous, decreased inhibition where we are not restrained by moral scruples. We begin to loosen up.

And I say, "Loosen up a little bit. Here. Have some of this."

That will loosen you up all right.

Then comes a shortened attention span. Then blunted feelings.

And the last stage, thought it is all legal in this country, all legal so far, the last stage of legal intoxication in America is disinhibition. It is different than decreased inhibition. It is dishinhibition. And somebody defined it as this. What is disinhibition? It is a lack of restraint manifested in several ways including disregard for social conventions, impulsivity, favoring impulsive, just doing before thinking, poor risk assessment, has people often times jump off cliffs, do crazy things thinking they can do it, jump off a high diving board or a cliff into the water.

Disinhibition affects motor, instinctual, emotional, cognitive and perceptual aspects with signs and symptoms similar to the diagnostic criteria for mania. Madness.

By the way, the Bible talks about God making people drunk and becoming mad, insanity, dementia. You go to a mental hospital.

The last time I visited in a mental hospital I was told that most of the people in there were there because of dementia caused by alcoholism. Destroys brain cells on contact. It destroys never cells on contact and sometimes they are never regenerated.

But a blood alcohol level of 0.0 percent the drunkard now going all the way from the beginning to disinhibition, has now reached the legal US intoxication limit despite his impairment in concentration, reasoning, depth perception, peripheral vision and glare recovery. And how much booze does it take for a.... we will pick a 100 pound woman. She is real short and small. How much booze does it take for a 100 pound female to reach or exceed the limit? Two 12 ounce cans of five percent beer, two five ounce glasses of 12 percent table wine or two one ounce shots of 60 percent whiskey.

How much does it take to kill her? In her case she is small, 120 pound female. It only takes nine cans of beer, 45 ounces of wine and nine ounces of whiskey to kill her dead. It is a deadly poison, named correctly, alcohol.

Another reason why we may want to abstain from alcoholic beverages is we don't want to be shunned by Bible practicing—notice I said Bible practicing—by Bible practicing Christians because of our intoxication. When someone professes to be a Christian and drinks booze and gets intoxicated, which, by the way, begins with the first sip, believers in Christ must shun that individual, refusing to keep company with him or even eat with him as long as he persists in his love of booze and intoxication.

By the way, most people do it because they like the initial stage of intoxication. They want the intoxication, the initial stages. They think they can control it. It is not there. Sometimes they are wrong. Sometimes they are right.

They choose intoxication. The legal stages I talked about already. If they continue to choose intoxication and booze, believers in Christ must shun that individual. Not exactly the exact word, but 1 Corinthians 5:11 says:

“But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard.”³⁷

And that is defined as someone who regularly drinks intoxicating beverages and becomes intoxicated.

But, anyhow you define it, zero tolerance, 0.00 percent alcohol, none or right up to what many other countries, or to our standard, we are not supposed to even eat.

We may want to avoid alcoholic beverages because we want to walk decently in the light leaving behind the darkness of our former debauchery. We must cast off intoxication and the partying, sexual promiscuity and debauchery that go along with it. Intoxicating beverages are frequently used at parties to break down inhibitions and encourage sexual sin.

³⁷ 1 Corinthians 5:11.

This disinhibition, no restraint whatsoever legally in this country.

As new creatures in Christ we must refrain from the intoxication that begins with the first sip of booze and from the sexual promiscuity that typically flows from it. We must cast off the works of darkness including intoxication and make no provision for satisfying the lusts of the flesh.

Romans 13:12-14 say:

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 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.³⁸

Now before the Lord Jesus Christ saved us from the slavery of sin we may have been caught up in drunken orgies and drinking parties where debauchery and abominable idolatries abounded. Despite the pressure from some in our past life, we must refuse to take even a sip of booze lest we slip back into a drunken debauchery and disgusting idolatries of the past.

1 Peter 4:3-4 says:

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: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you.³⁹

Our friends from our old life think we are cuckoo for not doing what they do.

Next we might want to abstain from alcohol because we obey... we want to obey a clear command of Scripture to stop being filled with debauchery engendering [?] but to instead keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit.

In the Greek Bible οἶνος (oy'-nos) is a generic word for the product of the grape in various forms. In the LXX, the Septuagint, that is a Greek translation of the Old Testament, οἶνος (oy'-nos) is regularly used to translate the Hebrew word [?] in other words grapes or freshly squeezed grape juice. In this context οἶνος (oy'-nos) refers to something clearly linked to debauchery from which there is literally [?] no deliverance, at least till the toxic alcohol has released its hold.

³⁸ Romans 13:12-14.

³⁹ 1 Peter 4:3-4.

What does Ephesians 5:18 say?

And stop being saturated, drenched filled, intoxicated with wine wherein is excess, debauchery. Wycliffe calls it lechery. But keep on being filled with the Spirit.

We also may not drink alcoholic beverages because we choose to follow the example of Daniel who did what he determined not to defile himself with the king of Babylon's wine.

Daniel 1:8 says:

“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.”⁴⁰

Therefore he asked not to have to do that and perhaps we should do likewise. And near the end—and I am at my limit—furthermore we choose to obey the general commands to abstain from wine or be wine free in five New Testament passages containing the verb νηϕω (nay'-fo) which means abstain from wine, be wine free or drink no wine.

1 Thessalonians 5:6 and eight contains this term translated let us be sober. You can read the context if you want to, but the context talks about darkness versus light. It talks about evil things that he wicked people practice about sleeping and it says:

But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.⁴¹

Of course if you are wine free you are sober. The word translated let it be sober literally means free of wine. The derived meaning, of course, is sobriety. Obviously, we have got to stay away from any intoxicants so we can be sober and alert and awake and not slumbering in the effects of alcohol.

It goes on.

“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.”⁴²

It goes on.

1 Peter 1:13.

⁴⁰ Daniel 1:8.

⁴¹ 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4.

⁴² 1 Thessalonians 5:5.

“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end.”⁴³

Be wine free. That is the literal meaning. Of course sober is a fine meaning if you know what it means. Don't let yourself get intoxicated. It is real simple.

1 Peter 4:7. By the way, the previous passage talked about being holy as God is holy. 1 Peter 4:7 mentions the verb of this in verse seven.

“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”⁴⁴

If you are free of wine, not intoxicated, you could be alert. You could be vigilant. You could keep on the look out for danger, but if you are intoxicated you are less likely to able to spot the danger.

By the way, 1 Peter 4:3-4 we have already talked about, talking all about debauchery and the results of wine in intoxication.

1 Peter 5:8 the word “be sober” is νηφω (nay'-fo). It says be sober, saved from wine. Don't be intoxicated. Be vigilant, be alert as a result. Why?

“...because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”⁴⁵

Got to be alert. Can't be drunk as a skunk where we can't see the danger from the devil.

2 Timothy 4:5 also mentions this term translated “watch thou.”

But keep thou abstaining from wine, oh Timothy, in all things that is be unintoxicated. Be wine free in all things, et cetera, et cetera.

And, lastly, we choose to measure up to the wine free characteristics required of bishops, wives and aged men and three New Testament passages that feature the adjective [?]. We have the bishop, pastor, bishop, elder talked about in 1 Timothy 3:2.

“A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife.”⁴⁶

The word “vigilant” is wine free, abstaining from wine, wineless, sober, sound minded, different word,

“...of good behaviour, given to hospitality,”⁴⁷ et cetera.

⁴³ 1 Peter 1:13.

⁴⁴ 1 Peter 4:7.

⁴⁵ 1 Peter 4:8.

⁴⁶ 1 Timothy 3:2.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

1 Timothy 3:11 suggests that the wives, either deacons or pastors or both:

“Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.”⁴⁸

And then Titus 2:2. Old men, aged men are commanded to be sober, that is wine free, not intoxicated, grave, temperate, sound in faith and charity and in patience.

These are about 25 I would suggest to you good reasons for abstaining from alcohol. If you have questions about this or other things related to that, come back to the 1:30 session. I am already five minutes over time. Please forgive me, but we have just scratched the surface. This was, of course, this what you had in your hand if you have a copy, this is simply a draft copy finished at midnight so it may have some errors in it. Hopefully there were no errors in fact, just errors in punctuation or capitalization or spelling.

Thank you.

⁴⁸ 1 Timothy 3:11.