

# Bible Study Course

## Drinking Alcoholic Beverages

(from: <http://www.libertygospeltracts.com/biblecrs/alcohol/alcohol11.htm>)

This Bible Course Booklet is lovingly dedicated to our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us, and died for us that we might be saved from all of our sins; and also to the memory of His servant:

CARLTON RECTOR

(1911-1998)

a deacon of the Liberty Baptist Church for many years. He had been raised in the years when alcohol was outlawed in America. During that time, his step-father had made and sold an illegal, alcoholic brew. Brother Rector had seen first-hand the effect of alcohol upon the home: the fighting, the meanness, and the resulting poverty. He stood firmly against drinking alcoholic beverages of any kind at any time. Do you? This Bible Course may just change your life. At 86 years old, Brother Rector was still preaching the gospel in the open air at the park ministries, and pulling the gospel float in the parades. View his life story called, "[Trouble Turned To Triumph!](#)" (Tract #TR-E-150)

Welcome to Book 3 in the *Practical Christian Living* Series of the Liberty Bible Course. This booklet deals with *Drinking Alcoholic Beverages*. The Bible says, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Does alcohol really give a person a more exciting life, or does it rob a person of *real life*? This study is written to be used with the KING JAMES BIBLE, otherwise your answers are going to be incorrect. Please get your Bible, and begin another exciting study that just may *change your life!*

# Chapter 1

## I. Did Jesus make and/or drink alcoholic wine?

John 2:1-11

**A. Jesus could not have drunk alcoholic wine at the wedding feast, or He would have been disobeying the Bible commands concerning kings and princes.**

**Note:** When people mention that they are against drinking alcoholic beverages, the question often comes up, “Well, if Jesus *made wine*, then why is it wrong to drink?” Many people assume that Jesus made *alcoholic* wine at the wedding feast in Cana, and so assume that it must be all right to drink it. But, as you will clearly see, Jesus could not have made or drank such a substance.

1. According to Proverbs 31:4, kings are not to drink \_\_\_\_\_, and princes are not to drink \_\_\_\_\_ drink.
2. Revelation 19:16 says that Jesus is the “\_\_\_\_\_ OF KINGS.”
3. Isaiah 9:6 prophesies of Jesus, and calls Him “The \_\_\_\_\_ of Peace.”

**Note:** The Bible is clear that kings and princes are forbidden to drink any type of alcoholic beverages (whether wine, or stronger alcoholic-content drinks).

**Jesus is the KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS, and He is *The Prince of Peace*. If He drank wine or strong drink, then He would have disobeyed the Bible command for kings and princes — which would have made Him a sinner.**

According to I John 3:4, “sin is the transgression of the \_\_\_\_\_.” If Jesus was a sinner, then He could not be our Savior. He would have had to die for His own sins, because the Bible says in Romans 6:23 that “the wages of sin is \_\_\_\_\_.”

If Jesus drank wine or strong drink, then all of mankind is hopelessly lost forever, and headed for hell. But that is not the case, for there would have been many witnesses against Jesus if He had drunk any alcoholic wine at that wedding feast, and someone would have testified against Him at His trial before Pilate. But Pilate had to admit in Luke 23:4, “I find \_\_\_\_\_ fault in this man.” Jesus *never* drank any liquor.

**B. Just because Jesus was said to turn the water into wine, does not mean that He made *alcoholic* wine. In the Bible, *wine* is a *generic term*, that is, a *general term for a whole group or class of grape-related products*.**

1. In Isaiah 65:8, we see that grapes still hanging on the vine are called *wine*, because it says they are “found in the \_\_\_\_\_.”

2. According to Proverbs 3:9,10, freshly squeezed grape juice is called *wine*, because it says “thy \_\_\_\_\_ shall burst out with new wine.”

**Note:** Grapes hanging on the vine, or grapes being freshly squeezed in harvest time are not alcoholic. They are just fresh grapes and freshly squeezed grape juice.

3. Numbers 6:1-8 gives instructions to people who took upon themselves the vow of a Nazarite. They were told not to partake of any *wine*, and it was very specific in laying out what all that would include: “He shall separate himself from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ drink, and shall drink no \_\_\_\_\_ of wine, or vinegar of \_\_\_\_\_ drink, neither shall he drink any \_\_\_\_\_ of grapes, nor eat \_\_\_\_\_ grapes, or \_\_\_\_\_. All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the \_\_\_\_\_ even to the \_\_\_\_\_.”

**When you read the word *wine* in the Bible, you must carefully consider the context of the passage to see if it is referring to *alcoholic* wine — or if to grapes, grape juice, vinegar, raisins (dried grapes), grape seeds, or grape skins.**

**Note:** The Bible says in II Timothy 2:15 to “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, \_\_\_\_\_ dividing the word of truth.”

### **C. Jesus would have never attended a wedding feast where alcoholic wine was being drunk.**

1. Proverbs 23:20 says that we are not to be “among \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_.”

**Note:** A *winebibber* is someone who is *imbibing* or *drinking* — in this case, *imbibing* or *drinking* alcoholic wine.

**Please notice that we are commanded not to be around people who are drinking alcoholic drinks. If Jesus would have been at a wedding reception where people were drinking alcohol, then He would have been disobeying the Bible. That would make Him a sinner, and unable to be our Savior.**

**Note:** The question is sometimes asked, “If you are not supposed to go *eat* where they *serve* liquor, then why is it okay to go to a grocery store that *sells* liquor to buy your groceries?” That is a good question, and we pray that God would raise up some Christian businessmen who would start grocery stores that do not sell liquor. It is a terrible thing to make money off from a product that ruins homes and destroys many lives.

This verse in question does not deal with a place where liquor is *sold*, but where it is *consumed*. Liquor is not *imbibed*, it is not *drunk*, in a grocery store. They sell bottles and cans of it there, but no one is allowed to drink it there. On the other hand, liquor is consumed in restaurants and bars that serve it. The above verse tells us not to be among people that are *imbibing* or *drinking* alcohol. What is the reasoning behind such a command?

2. Proverbs 13:20 says “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a \_\_\_\_\_ of fools shall be destroyed.”

3. According to Proverbs 20:1, “\_\_\_\_\_ is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Note:** The Bible says that a *companion of fools* shall be destroyed. It also says that people who drink *wine* and *strong drink* are *not wise*. Now if someone is not wise, what is he? A *fool*. The Bible tells us that a companion of fools shall be destroyed, and that people who drink

alcohol are fools. So that means if a person hangs around people who drink liquor, then he will become a fool himself.

#### **D. Does “well drunk” in John 2:10 mean *intoxicated with alcohol*?**

1. John 2:9,10 says that the ruler of the feast “\_\_\_\_\_ the water that was made wine,” and said, “thou hast kept the \_\_\_\_\_ wine until now.”

2. According to Proverbs 23:35, when a person is under the influence of alcohol, he can be *sick*, and *beaten*, but then say, “I \_\_\_\_\_ it not.”

**Alcohol *dulls* the senses. It does not make them sharper.**

**If the ruler of the feast was sipping container after container of alcoholic wine,**

**then he would have become more and more drunk. His senses would have**

**thus become more and more *dull*. The whole point of his testimony was**

**to illustrate the *quality* of Jesus’ miracle. But if he was intoxicated,**

**then his compliment meant absolutely nothing.**

**Illustration:** Picture a Christmas family gathering, and the table is filled with great desserts. Everyone at that point in time is usually very full, and some decline any desert at all. But you have saved a little room for dessert, and you ask for a big slice of that apple pie. You take a big bite of it, and then another, and you say, “Ma’am, this is the best tasting apple pie I have ever eaten!” Now that would be quite a compliment considering you were already quite full. Even good-tasting things at that point just do not seem so good, if you are too full. Everyone at the table would know that that was indeed a great pie, for you to make such a compliment.

But suppose that a member of the family came in late for the Christmas meal, and was drunk. As he stood there wobbling, he caught sight of his favorite pie — apple, so he asked for a slice of it. Now imagine him standing there trying not to fall over, and saying, “Wow, this is the best pie I have ever had! It is wonderful!” That would be no test of taste at all. He would just embarrass the family member who made it. No one would give his testimony an ounce worth of credit. Even so it would have been in the case of Jesus’ miracle, had the guests there been *well drunk* in the sense of being *intoxicated*.

What does it mean, then, when it says, “when men have well drunk”? It simply means that the guests had drunk a lot of *grape juice* from the punch bowl at that wedding. When guests first come, you would certainly not want to give them *watered-down* grape juice. But after they had drunk a lot of it, then the custom was to start *watering it down* a bit to make it stretch further. The ruler of the feast knew this was a common practice, and fully expected that the new batch brought out when the punch bowl ran out would be thinner, and less tasty. That is why he was so surprised when he tasted of it. In fact, he said in John 2:10, “thou hast kept the \_\_\_\_\_ wine until now.” He was saying that Jesus’ wine (grape juice made out of water) was better than the best juice they had started with that day! Now that really was a compliment.

**E. If Jesus had made alcoholic wine for a bunch of people who had already been drinking so much of it that they were drunk, then He would have been helping a bunch of drunk people get more drunk.**

1. According to I Corinthians 6:9,10, “the unrighteous shall not inherit the \_\_\_\_\_.”

2. List the things that are said to be *unrighteous*.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

h.

i.

j.

**The Bible says that the drunkard shall not inherit the kingdom of God. If Jesus helped a bunch of drunk people**

**get more drunk, then He would have been helping send people to hell by His miracle. If Jesus was doing things to help send people to hell, then He was clearly sinning. If Jesus sinned, then He could not be the Savior of the world.**

3. Luke 19:10 says that Jesus, the Son of man, came “to seek and to \_\_\_\_\_ that which was lost.”

**Note:** Jesus did not come to help send more people to hell — they do a good enough job of that themselves. He came to *save people from their sins*.

4. According to John 3:17, “God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be \_\_\_\_\_.”

5. Jesus prayed to the Father in John 17. Read the whole chapter, and notice His desire for us to be saved, and to enjoy eternity with Him — not eternity in hell. In verse 15 He prays for us, “that thou shouldest keep them from the \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Note:** It is very serious to say that Jesus made alcoholic wine for people that were already drunk. He did no such thing. He longs that every precious soul would turn from his/her sin to Him, and be saved. Isaiah 45:22 says, “Look unto me, and be ye \_\_\_\_\_, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.”

**How can a drunkard be held accountable for his drinking, when we are told that alcoholism is a *disease*?**

**#1 — if alcoholism is a disease, then it is the only disease that the government allows to be bottled and sold to the public.**

**#2 — if it is a disease, then it is the only disease for which the government taxes you (medically-related matters are normally non-taxable; like prescriptions, medical fees, etc.)**

**#3 — if it is a disease, then how do men/women who go to jail suddenly recover from it? They do not get any alcohol there.**

**Note:** *Alcoholism* is not a *disease* — it is *sin*. But what about the *genetic link*? What about the research that seems to say the child of a drunkard is more prone to be a drunkard? Yes, there is a *genetic link* involved, but we *all* have it — it is called a *sin nature*.

6. Please read Romans 7:14-8:18, and answer the following questions.

- a. The law is spiritual, but we are “ \_\_\_\_\_, sold under sin.” (vs. 14)
- b. The apostle Paul, whom God used to write this Book of the Bible, said in verse 15 that sometimes “what I \_\_\_\_\_, that do I.”
- c. The truth is taught in verse 21 that “when I would do good, \_\_\_\_\_ is present with me.”
- d. He describes this in verse 23 as “another law in my members, \_\_\_\_\_ against the law of my mind.”
- e. According to 8:6, this is a battle of the flesh against the spirit, “For to be \_\_\_\_\_ minded is death; but to be \_\_\_\_\_ minded is life and peace.”
- f. The instructions for victory in this battle are given in 8:13, “For if ye live after the \_\_\_\_\_, ye shall die: but if ye through the \_\_\_\_\_ do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”

**Victory over alcohol is not through A.A. and its  
unknown *higher power*, but through GOD ALMIGHTY,  
who can be known *personally*.**

**Note:** Not only the children of drunkards have trouble with alcohol. Every person has trouble being attracted to sin, because the *genetic link* goes back to the common parents of us all — Adam and Eve, and Noah.

7. Romans 5:12 tells us that Adam sinned, “and so death \_\_\_\_\_ upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

8. Noah also sinned, and he even specifically had trouble with alcohol. Genesis 9:20-29 tells the story.

a. Verse 21 says that Noah drank wine “and was \_\_\_\_\_; and he was uncovered within his tent.”

b. Because of his sin, his children, and especially his grandchildren were affected, because verse 25 says it caused Canaan to be \_\_\_\_\_, and a servant to his brethren.

**Note:** Liquor is a curse to any home. It causes children to see nakedness that they ought not to see, and adults to be in a drunken stupor and asleep when they ought to be up tending to the children and family. If you have trouble with alcohol, what you need is to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior. After that, you need to then submit to the Holy Spirit, and deny the flesh its sinful desires. Only through the power of God can you be set free. John 8:36 says, “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be \_\_\_\_\_ indeed.”

Jesus would never help a bunch of drunk people to get more drunk. He came to set men free from their sin. Alcohol steals many dollars out of the family needs, and many years off of the body’s health. That is the exact opposite of what Jesus came to do. John 10:10 says, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have \_\_\_\_\_, and that they might have it more \_\_\_\_\_.”

9. The Bible says in James 4:17 that “to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Note:** If Jesus made alcoholic wine for those wedding guests, then He *willingly did that which was not good, which means that He would have willingly sinned*. If Jesus sinned, then you are lost without hope for ever and ever. But Jesus never once drank or made alcoholic drinks. The Bible says in I Peter 2:21,22 that “Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no \_\_\_\_\_, neither was guile found in his mouth.”

**F. Jesus would not have gotten more glory as the sinless Savior, by making a bunch of drunk people more drunk.**

1. John 2:11 says that through this miracle (of turning the water into wine) He “manifested forth his \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Have you ever seen a wedding reception where liquor was served, that was *spiritual* and gave glory to God? Quite the opposite is true.**

**There is *ungodly music* played there. There is *lustful dancing* performed there. People do not glorify God wherever liquor flows, they blaspheme His name.**

2. John 2:11 continues on to say, “and his disciples \_\_\_\_\_ on him.”

**Note:** You will never see a multitude of people getting saved like that, if it is a gathering where the liquor flows. I Corinthians 6:9,10 says the opposite will be true. That alone tells you that Jesus did not make alcoholic wine.

### **REVIEW:**

1. According to Proverbs 31:4, kings are not to drink \_\_\_\_\_, and princes are not to drink \_\_\_\_\_ drink.
2. Revelation 19:16 says that Jesus is the “\_\_\_\_\_ OF KINGS.”
3. Isaiah 9:6 calls Jesus “The \_\_\_\_\_ of Peace.”
4. If Jesus drank wine or strong drink, then He was disobeying the command for kings and princes — which would make Him a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. If Jesus was a sinner, then He could not be our \_\_\_\_\_.
6. In the Bible, *wine* is a *generic* term, that is, a \_\_\_\_\_ term for a whole group or class of grape-related products.
7. In Isaiah 65:8, grapes still hanging on the vine are called *wine*, because it says they are found hanging in the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. When you read the word *wine* in the Bible, you must carefully consider the *context* of the passage to see if it is referring to alcoholic wine, or to \_\_\_\_\_ juice (or one of the many other by-products of grapes like raisins, vinegar, etc.).
9. Jesus would have never attended a wedding feast where alcoholic wine was being drunk, or He would have been disobeying Proverbs 23:20, which says that we are not to be among \_\_\_\_\_.
10. A winebibber is someone who is imbibing or \_\_\_\_\_ alcohol.
11. Alcohol \_\_\_\_\_ the senses.

12. If the ruler of the feast was intoxicated, then his compliment of Jesus' miracle would have meant absolutely \_\_\_\_\_.
13. When the Bible says that the guests had *well drunk*, it means that they had drunk a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ juice from the punch bowl.
14. If Jesus made alcoholic wine for a bunch of people who had already been drinking so much of it that they had run out of it, then He would have been helping a bunch of drunk people get more \_\_\_\_\_.
15. The Bible says in I Corinthians 6:9,10 that the \_\_\_\_\_ shall not inherit the kingdom of God.
16. If Jesus' miracle was making more alcohol for people, then Jesus would have been helping to send people to \_\_\_\_\_.
17. Luke 19:10 says that Jesus came to seek and to \_\_\_\_\_ that which was lost.
18. If alcoholism is a disease, then it is the only disease that the government allows to be bottled and \_\_\_\_\_ to the public.
19. If alcoholism is a disease, then it is the only disease for which the government \_\_\_\_\_ people, (because prescriptions and medical fees are non-taxable.)
20. Alcoholism is not a disease — it is \_\_\_\_\_.
21. The only *genetic link* there is is called the “sin \_\_\_\_\_.”
22. Romans 5:12 tells us that Adam sinned, and so death \_\_\_\_\_ upon all men, for that all have sinned.
23. John 8:36 says “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be \_\_\_\_\_ indeed.”
24. If a person knows to do good, and does not do it, then to him it is \_\_\_\_\_.
25. John 2:11 says that through this miracle, Jesus manifested forth his \_\_\_\_\_, and that would not have been the case had He made alcoholic wine for a bunch of drunk people.
26. That same verse says that “his disciples \_\_\_\_\_ on him.”

## Chapter 2

### II. Was Paul Telling Timothy To Drink Alcoholic Wine To Help His Physical Infirmities?

#### I Timothy 5:23

#### A. No, because Timothy was a church leader.

**Note:** We saw earlier that Proverbs 31:4 said that it was not for kings or princes to drink wine or strong drink. Verse 5 tells why: “Lest they drink, and forget the \_\_\_\_\_, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.” Religious leaders ought not to drink alcoholic drinks for the same reason.

**A person does not suddenly get drunk when a legal limit has been reached. A person becomes *more drunk* with *every sip* of liquor. With each *sip*, he is less in control of his reflexes. With each *sip*, he is less in control of being able to think quickly and clearly. No one *suddenly* gets drunk — it happens *one sip at a time*.**

For these reasons, no one should drink alcohol. A person who does such, is allowing himself to be put under the power of a substance that takes away his ability to act responsibly. If that is true for every person, then how much more should leaders stay away from alcohol? Leaders not only make decisions that affect themselves, but many other people. Therefore, a leader is all the more responsible to have a clear and alert mind. Timothy was a leader in the church. The apostle Paul could not possibly have been trying to get him to start drinking a little liquor. That would be teaching this young preacher Timothy to disobey the very Word of God that he was trying to get him to preach and teach faithfully.

1. Timothy was told in I Timothy 1:3 to abide at the city of Ephesus, “that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Note:** *Doctrine* is “Bible teaching.” Timothy would need to be *on his toes* and *sharp* mentally, so he could discern when error was being taught, and thus refute it. He needed to be a wise leader that was *mentally alert*.

2. According to I Timothy 4:6, Timothy was told that he “put the brethren in \_\_\_\_\_ of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ.”

3. In I Timothy 4:11, Timothy is told: “These things command and \_\_\_\_\_.”

4. I Timothy 5:22 emphasizes the great need for leaders (like Timothy) to be very alert, because they are to “Lay hands \_\_\_\_\_ on no man.”

**Note:** The context here is not that of *laying hands* on someone to *fight* with him, but to *ordain* him into the gospel ministry. Please see Bible Course #BC-E-103 on the Church for further information on *ordination*, and the *laying on of hands* used in that.

It is very important to not ordain an ungodly, irresponsible man to the ministry. Timothy needed to be *alert every day* to watch and evaluate men who were serious about serving the Lord — men who were growing in the Lord, and who could in turn lead others.

**If Paul would have been telling Timothy to start drinking  
a little alcohol, then he would have had to deal with Timothy  
*laying hands* on people to *fight* with them, because that  
is the natural result of drinking liquor — fighting.**

Proverbs 23:29,30 asks the question, “Who hath contentions?” and “Who hath wounds without cause?” And it answers it in verse 30, “They that tarry long at the \_\_\_\_\_; they that go to seek \_\_\_\_\_ wine.” Needless *fight*s and *arguments* are started when a person begins to drink alcohol.

5. I Timothy 5:22 also continues, “neither be partaker of other men’s sins: keep thyself \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Alcoholic drinks are a big factor in causing immoral  
thoughts, adulteries, and resulting divorces.**

**Note:** The context of Proverbs 23:20-35 mentions the *immoral factor* of alcoholic drinks. It mentions in verse 27 that a “\_\_\_\_\_ is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit.” A deep ditch and a narrow pit have something in common — they are both very difficult to get out of once you have entered. Even so it is when you have entered into an immoral relationship with a person — it is very difficult to get out of it, once you have started.

Notice that verse 28 also says of the immoral woman: “She also lieth in \_\_\_\_\_ as for a prey.” A *prey* is something or someone that you are trying to *trap*. The immoral woman waits to catch a man in her trap. And guess who is the most likely to fall into her *ditch* and *narrow pit*? Verse 29 starts right in telling you who is most likely to be her *prey* — *the man who drinks alcohol*.

**Who is the least likely to be able to drive by a deep ditch without getting too close and sliding down into it? The driver who has been drinking alcohol.**

**Who is the least likely to be able to walk by a narrow pit without falling into it?**

**The one who has been drinking alcohol. Even so, who is the least likely to be able to resist immoral thoughts and immoral relationships?**

**The one who has been drinking alcohol.**

Proverbs 23:33 says that the drinker’s “eyes shall behold \_\_\_\_\_ women.” The Bible uses the word *strange* in the sense of the *wrong type of woman* — *an immoral, improper woman*.

Who could begin to count how many marriages have been ruined in the bar, or ruined in the restaurant that serves liquor, or ruined when some man/woman was at a party where liquor was being served? In fact, many people go to such places or parties for that very thing — to find an immoral relationship. That is exactly what Habakkuk 2:15 describes: “Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor \_\_\_\_\_, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their \_\_\_\_\_.”

It would be absolutely senseless to tell Timothy to keep himself *pure* in I Timothy 5:22, and then in the next verse tell him to quit drinking just water, and to start drinking a little alcohol. That would be giving a command, and then trying to get him to disobey it!

People who drink alcohol are not going to have pure thoughts. They are going to feel relaxed and drawn to immorality like a magnet to steel. Paul would have never told a young preacher to start drinking alcohol. It would surely be the ruin of such a young man. He told him quite the opposite in II Timothy 2:22, “Flee also youthful \_\_\_\_\_: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a \_\_\_\_\_ heart.”

— *Was Paul telling Timothy to drink alcoholic wine?*

### **B. No, because Timothy had frequent stomach trouble of some kind.**

1. In I Timothy 5:23, Timothy was told to “use a little wine for thy \_\_\_\_\_ sake and thine \_\_\_\_\_ infirmities.”

2. The last words of the previous verse are “keep thyself \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Note:** Notice that Timothy was not being told to *supplement* his water with some other beverage *once in a while*, but to “drink no longer water” — “*stay away from water completely, Timothy.*” If he was being told to drink *only* alcohol, and to stay *completely away* from water, then he would be encouraged to be an *alcoholic* or a *drunkard!*

Even the world says that a person is an *alcoholic* if he has to have a drink every day to function — let alone for *every meal*.

So anyone would have to admit that a person who drinks only alcoholic drinks, is obviously an alcoholic — a drunkard.

The Bible makes it clear that a nation is in big trouble when its leaders start having to have their alcohol, and in even bigger trouble when they start out doing it even in the morning. Ecclesiastes 10:16,17 says, “Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child, and thy princes eat in the \_\_\_\_\_! Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for \_\_\_\_\_!”

Any honest person would have to readily admit that the Bible would never tell someone to drink *only* alcohol. That would make absolutely no sense, and would contradict everything else the Bible teaches about alcoholic drinks.

**Note:** It is interesting to note that *purity* should be mentioned in I Timothy 5:22, and then for verse 23 to start out telling Timothy to “Drink no longer \_\_\_\_\_.”

***Purity* is mentioned, and then *trouble with water* is mentioned. For anyone who has traveled abroad, the connection is immediately made. The water in many places of the world is not very pure. If your body is accustomed to drinking fairly pure water, and then you drink some water from another country that has a higher level of bacteria in it, you may get sick.**

One such sickness is called *Cholera*. One of the ways the bacteria that causes this sickness is spread is through *polluted water*, or *raw fruits* and *vegetables* where there is poor hygiene. The more under-developed the nation, the more likely that you will have this problem. The symptoms of this disease are abdominal pain and severe diarrhea. ([The American Medical Association Family Medical Guide](#), Random House, page 462) This is what that book recommends if you are abroad and find yourself with these symptoms: #1 — If the symptoms do not improve within a few hours, then get medical help immediately; #2 — Drink as much *non-alcoholic* fluid as you can.

In Bible times, there were not always *deep* wells from which to drink, like in John 4:11 where the woman said to Jesus, “Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is \_\_\_\_\_.” The more shallow the well, the warmer the water tends to be, and the more probable to find bacteria present and thriving. That is why there are guidelines now in many areas of this country, as to how shallow your well can be. The more shallow it is, the more susceptible it is to contamination.

So Timothy may have been having something similar to *Cholera*. If so, it would make sense that Paul told him to stay away *completely* from drinking water. Impure water would be keeping his stomach trouble going. But he would then need *something else* to drink. Paul thus told him to drink *wine — grape juice*.

Now we have already seen that you have to look at the *context* in the Bible to determine whether the word *wine* is being used in an *alcoholic* sense or not. In this case, it is clear to see that it was *definitely not* alcoholic wine that was being recommended. Notice once again the #2 instruction above: “Drink as much *non-alcoholic* fluid as you can,” if you have this type of stomach trouble.

If that is the best medical advice, then Paul would have been telling Timothy to do *exactly the opposite* of what he should be doing, if he was telling Timothy to start drinking *only* alcoholic wine. If man knows you should not drink alcoholic drinks when you have a case of *cholera*, then how much more would God know about it? The Bible says in I Corinthians 1:25, “Because the foolishness of God is \_\_\_\_\_ than men.” God would never give instructions to make a person’s sickness worse, but better. So Timothy was not being told to drink *alcoholic wine*, but to drink a little *grape juice*.

With the context talking about *purity*, and then immediately dealing with *water* and *stomach trouble*, this type of sickness is no doubt what his problem was.

Others have suggested that Timothy’s trouble was *ulcers*, or a similar problem of some sort. They suggest that Timothy, being just a young pastor, was under a lot of stress, and thus developed ulcers. The context in no way insinuates that that was Timothy’s problem. If it had been, and if Paul’s advice to Timothy was to start drinking a little alcoholic wine, then his advice was the exact opposite of what the medical field says is the proper treatment of ulcers today.

The same medical book as quoted above states under a section on stomach ulcers, “You are especially likely to develop a stomach ulcer if you smoke or *drink heavily*.” ([The American Medical Association Family Medical Guide](#), Random House, page 465) Timothy had obviously not been drinking *heavily*, because he had to be encouraged to drink something *besides* water. So he obviously had not developed an ulcer from drinking too much alcohol.

Secondly, if he had gotten an ulcer some other way, and if Paul's advice was telling him to drink a little *alcoholic wine*, then that also would have been the exact opposite counsel that he should have given. The same medical book goes on to say how to treat an ulcer, "Avoid smoking and *drinking alcohol*." (The American Medical Association Family Medical Guide, Random House, page 466)

**Even the medical field says that if you have an ulcer — stay away from alcohol! Does not God know what the medical field knows, and much more?**

**Indeed He does. He would never command in His Word that man should do**

**something that would harm his body or compound his troubles.**

3. Proverbs 30:5 says, "Every word of God is \_\_\_\_\_: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him."

4. According to Psalm 119:160, God's Word is "\_\_\_\_\_ from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."

5. Joshua was told in Joshua 1:8 to study the Word of God and do it, because "then thou shalt make thy way \_\_\_\_\_, and then thou shalt have good success."

6. Romans 12:2 reminds us to not be conformed to the world, but through the Word of God be transformed by the renewing of our minds, "that ye may prove what is that \_\_\_\_\_, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

7. According to John 10:10, Jesus did not come to be a thief to steal your life from you, or to steal away from you any and all fun that you might be able to have in life. "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more \_\_\_\_\_."

8. Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way which \_\_\_\_\_ right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

9. According to Proverbs 19:21, "There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall \_\_\_\_\_."

**Note:** What God says is *always* right, and will *never* be proven wrong by man. God would never have had it written down in His Word for Timothy to do something that would harm his body. So if Timothy's problem had been *ulcer* problems, God would never have had it

written down in His Word that Timothy should drink *alcoholic* wine for it. (But it should still be noted that the context points to *impure water* as the cause of Timothy's stomach trouble — not ulcer problems.) The point is that in neither case is alcoholic wine the thing to drink. In either case, even the medical field says “No alcoholic drinks when you have one of these conditions.”

— *Was Timothy being told to drink alcoholic wine?*

### **C. No, because Timothy was warned that all sins — even secret ones — will be brought out at the judgment seat.**

1. I Timothy 5:24 could not rightly follow verse 23, if verse 23 was telling Timothy to drink *alcoholic* wine, because it was warning Timothy that “Some men's sins are \_\_\_\_\_ beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Note:** That verse would make absolutely no sense, if you were telling someone to start drinking *alcoholic* wine, and no water whatsoever.

**When people are under the influence of alcohol, they may do some things**

**which they later do not even recall doing. But according to verse 24, whether their sin is *open* (known by others, and/or by themselves), or whether it was done in secret (with no other witnesses present, and maybe even the person who committed it too drunk to remember)**

***open* or *secret*, all sin is going to one day be judged.**

Now, would it not seem strange to *encourage* the drinking of *alcoholic* drinks, and then state such a truth about the coming judgment? On the contrary, because of such a coming judgment, it would be natural to *totally discourage* the drinking of any *alcoholic* drinks.

2. Proverbs 23:33 tells a person under the influence of alcohol, “thine heart shall utter \_\_\_\_\_ things.”

**Note:** That may be a *secret* sin, a sin in the heart, but according to I Timothy 5:24, it will be judged one day. So it would be contradictory to say “Drink *alcoholic* wine,” and then say, “Watch out — because every sin that you do, secret or open, will be judged one day!”

## **REVIEW:**

1. Paul was not telling Timothy to drink alcoholic wine, because Timothy was a church \_\_\_\_\_.
2. For the same reason that political leaders are not to drink alcoholic drinks, neither are \_\_\_\_\_ leaders to drink them.
3. A person does not suddenly become drunk when a legal \_\_\_\_\_ has been reached.
4. A person becomes more drunk with every \_\_\_\_\_ of liquor that he/she drinks.
5. With each sip of liquor, a person is less in \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Leaders not only make decisions that affect themselves, but many other people. Therefore, a leader is all the more responsible to have a clear and \_\_\_\_\_ mind.
7. Timothy would need to be on his toes and sharp mentally, so he could discern when \_\_\_\_\_ was being taught, and thus refute it.
8. Proverbs 23:29,30 asks and answers the question, “Who hath contentions?” “They that tarry long at the \_\_\_\_\_; they that go to seek \_\_\_\_\_ wine.”
9. Alcoholic drinks are a big factor in causing \_\_\_\_\_ thoughts, adulteries, and resulting divorces.
10. Who is most likely to fall into the immoral woman’s trap? The man who drinks \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Who is the least likely to be able to resist immoral thoughts? The one who has been drinking \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Who could begin to count how many marriages have been ruined in the \_\_\_\_\_, or ruined in the restaurant that serves liquor, or ruined at a party where liquor was being served?
13. Many people go to parties where liquor is being served for that very reason, but Habakkuk 2:15 warns, “Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor \_\_\_\_\_, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their \_\_\_\_\_.”

14. Paul was not telling Timothy to drink alcoholic wine, because Timothy had frequent \_\_\_\_\_ trouble of some kind.
15. If Paul was telling Timothy to stay away completely from water, and to only drink alcoholic wine, then Paul was encouraging Timothy to become an \_\_\_\_\_ or a drunkard.
16. Any honest person would have to readily admit that the Bible would never tell someone to drink only \_\_\_\_\_, because that would make no sense, and would contradict everything else the Bible teaches about alcoholic drinks.
17. It is interesting to note that \_\_\_\_\_ is mentioned in I Timothy 5:22, and then that trouble with water is mentioned in the next verse.
18. Anyone who has traveled to another country knows that the water in many countries is not very \_\_\_\_\_ — it often has a higher bacteria level in it, which can make you sick.
19. One of the ways that *Cholera* is spread is through \_\_\_\_\_ water.
20. If you find yourself with the symptoms of the above sickness, the *American Medical Association* recommends two things: #1) If the symptoms do not improve within a few hours, then get medical help immediately; #2) Drink as much \_\_\_\_\_ fluid as you can.
21. The more shallow the well, the \_\_\_\_\_ the water tends to be, and the more probable to find bacteria present and thriving in it.
22. If Timothy was suffering from something like *Cholera*, then it would make sense that Paul told him to stay away \_\_\_\_\_ from drinking water — impure water would keep his stomach trouble going.
23. Some people have suggested that maybe Timothy's trouble was \_\_\_\_\_, because he was under a lot of stress, but the context in no way insinuates that was his problem.
24. But if that was his problem, Paul's advice (if he was telling him to drink alcohol) to him would be exactly the opposite of what the medical field says to do today to treat ulcers, because they say, "Avoid smoking and drinking \_\_\_\_\_."
25. God would never command in His Word that man should do something that would \_\_\_\_\_ his body or compound his troubles.
26. John 10:10 says that Jesus came "that they might have life, and that they might have it more \_\_\_\_\_."
27. Timothy was not being told to drink alcoholic wine, because he was warned that all sins — even \_\_\_\_\_ ones, will be brought out at the judgment seat.

28. That would be foolish to tell Timothy to drink alcoholic drinks, and then to warn him about secret sins, because when people are under the influence of alcohol, they may do some things which they later cannot \_\_\_\_\_ doing.

## Chapter 3

### III. Should A Christian Drink Wine Socially?

#### Proverbs 20:1

#### **A. A Christian is told not to drink *alcoholic* wine or stronger alcoholic drinks.**

1. Proverbs 20:1 says that “\_\_\_\_\_ is a mocker.”

**When people drink, they often get silly or foolish acting.**

**Very few people act their *natural* self when under the influence of alcohol. Thus, a person who drinks wine and starts acting foolish, many times ends up being an embarrassment to his wife, children, and even his own reputation. If you get a little wine in you, it will mock you. It will *make a fool* out of you.**

2. Proverbs 24:9 says “The thought of \_\_\_\_\_ is sin.”

3. Ecclesiastes 10:1 is talking about a pharmacist’s mixture of medicine in the form of an ointment, to which the flies happen to be attracted. They get attracted to it; and whether they get stuck in it, or it is just quickly fatal to them, they nonetheless end up dying in the ointment mixture. Then, the smell of dead flies in the mixture causes it to stink. The verse

then goes on to say, “so doth a little \_\_\_\_\_ him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.”

**Note:** The point is this, that the medicine is there to help you. But if flies get in it, then the smell of the medicine just may kill you! So what was *good* for you, now becomes a *reproach* to you.

Even so it is when a person held in reputation begins to talk and do foolish things. It is out of character for his position, and becomes disgusting to those around him.

That is exactly what *alcoholic* drinks do to a person. It *mocks* him, and makes a fool out of him. Eventually embarrassing himself, and his family.

4. Proverbs 20:1 goes on to say, “\_\_\_\_\_ drink is raging.”

**Note:** There are *stronger* alcoholic drinks than wine, and the end result of them is said to be *raging*. Something *raging* is “violent, and out of control.” It is frequently said, “A *raging* fire burnt a house to the ground last night located at...” The fire was *furious* and *out of control*, or the fire-fighters would have saved the house from being burnt to the ground.

Even so it is with liquor. The stronger the percentage of alcohol in the drink, then the more *out of control* a person can quickly become. Whether *alcoholic wine*, or a *stronger alcoholic drink*, the end result of both is bad.

-- III. *Should A Christian Drink Wine Socially?*

### **B. A Christian is told not to look at alcoholic drinks.**

1. Proverbs 23:31 says, “\_\_\_\_\_ not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.”

**The reason for not *looking* at it, is so that you will not be tempted to then *taste* of it. Do not deceive yourself into thinking that you are above ever being tempted to drink alcohol.**

2. I Corinthians 10:12 says, “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he \_\_\_\_\_.”

3. Eve had never sinned, but in Genesis 3:6, “when the woman \_\_\_\_\_ that the tree was good for food...” she then took of the fruit and sinned. It started when she *saw* the fruit, and then entertained *thoughts* about eating it.

4. That was also the downfall of Achan in Joshua chapter 7. After he was caught for his sin, he told what led to his downfall in verse 21 of that chapter: “When I \_\_\_\_\_ among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment...”

5. We must remember that one of the top three *downfalls* of man comes through the *eye-gate*. I John 2:16 says, “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the \_\_\_\_\_, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

**Note:** Whether it is *Eve*, or *Achan*, or *YOU*, do not become over-confident that you can look at anything without being tempted to sin. The Bible says to not even look upon alcoholic drinks, lest you be tempted to drink them. Be wise and believe God.

6. Proverbs 8:33 says, “Hear instruction, and be \_\_\_\_\_, and refuse it not.”

-- III. *Should A Christian Drink Wine Socially?*

### **C. A Christian is told not to get under the control of alcoholic drinks.**

1. Ephesians 5:17,18 tell us, “Wherefore be ye not \_\_\_\_\_, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not \_\_\_\_\_ with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”

**The will of God is clear — Christians are not to be *filled* with alcohol, but *filled* with the Holy Spirit. Christians are not to be *controlled* by liquor, but *controlled* by the Holy Spirit.**

2. In Acts 2:1-21, a miraculous event takes place.

a. It was “the day of \_\_\_\_\_.” (vs. 1)

b. “They were all \_\_\_\_\_ with the Holy Ghost.” (vs. 4)

c. The multitude “were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his \_\_\_\_\_ language.” (This event is totally different from the *counterfeit Tongues Movement* of today; which is just *gibberish*, and never in a known, understandable language that the hearers can understand the gospel and be saved.)

d. Some mocked and said “These men are full of new \_\_\_\_\_.” (vs. 13)

e. But Peter said, “these are not \_\_\_\_\_, as ye suppose.” (vs. 15)

**Note:** When these disciples were *filled with the Holy Spirit*, it appeared to others that they were under the *influence* or under the *control* of something. They assumed that that *something* was liquor, but they were wrong, and Peter made that very clear to them. Remember Ephesians 5:18 above? We are not to be *controlled* by liquor, but *controlled* by the Holy Spirit.

### **REVIEW:**

1. Proverbs 20:1 says that “wine is a \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. When people drink, they often get silly or \_\_\_\_\_ acting.
3. Proverbs 24:9 says that “the thought of foolishness is \_\_\_\_\_.”
4. Proverbs 20:1 says that “strong drink is \_\_\_\_\_.”
5. Someone who is *raging* is “\_\_\_\_\_ and out of control.”
6. The stronger the percentage of alcohol in a drink, then the more out of \_\_\_\_\_ a person can quickly become.
7. Proverbs 23:31 says “\_\_\_\_\_ not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.”
8. The reason for not looking at it, is so you will not be tempted to then \_\_\_\_\_ of it.
9. Do not be deceived into thinking that nothing could ever \_\_\_\_\_ you to drink.
10. We are told in Ephesians 5:18, “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be \_\_\_\_\_ with the Spirit.”
11. The Bible is clear that Christians are not to be filled with alcohol, but filled with the \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Christians are not to be controlled by alcohol, but controlled by the \_\_\_\_\_.