

## Wine - 2

### Introduction

1. This is the second part of our four part series on “wine.”
2. This is a very important study because many Christians now believe that it is acceptable to socially drink alcoholic beverages.
  - A. Something that is clearly condemned in the Scriptures.
3. Every Christian should have the attitude of wanting to submit to the instruction of God because Jesus clearly said that it is His words that will judge us in the last day (John 12:48).

### Seven Key Passages of Scripture

1. What has God really said about the “social” or “recreational” drinking of alcohol?
  - A. We are going to read 7 passages in the Bible that talk about consuming alcohol and see what God has revealed on this vital subject.

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

Proverbs 23:29-35 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? **(30)** Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine. **(31)** Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly; **(32)** At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. **(33)** Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things. **(34)** Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: **(35)** "They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?"

Proverbs 31:4-5 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Nor for princes intoxicating drink; **(5)** Lest they drink and forget the law, And pervert the justice of all the afflicted.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, **(10)** nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **(11)** And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Galatians 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, **(20)** idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, **(21)** envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

1 Peter 4:3-4 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, **drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties**, and abominable idolatries. **(4)** In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

**2. The honest heart will clearly see that all of these passages are very straightforward concerning what God thinks about alcoholic drinks.**

**A. As we read these passages, we see that God has condemned drinking alcohol in every degree or aspect.**

**B. For example, in Ephesians 5:18, Paul wrote, “be not drunk with wine...” In this verse, the English word “drunk” is translated from the Greek word “methusko.**

**1) Methusko refers to the process of getting drunk. It means, “to become drunk or become intoxicated” (thayer).**

**2) In this passage, Paul is literally telling Christians not to begin the process of becoming drunk. Since Paul wrote “the commandments of the Lord” (1 Cor 14:37), we can know that God does not want us to drink at all.**

**3) After all, how does one “begin the process” of becoming drunk without a drink?**

Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.**

3. **Another time we see God condemning the drinking of alcohol is in 1 Peter 4:3-4. The passage says that God condemns “excess of wine,” (drunkenness) “revellings,” and “banquetings” (drinking parties) in which men may be engaged. Let’s examine what these words mean.**
- A. **“Excess of wine”** literally means an “overflow or surplus of wine....drunkenness” (Strong’s).
- 1) It refers to the habitual drunk, the wino, etc., the one who drinks and passes out unconscious. The alcoholic goes on “binges” and things like it.
- B. **“Revelings”** means a “letting loose” or a carousal (Strong’s).
- 1) The person guilty of “reveling” is one who drinks alcohol and has lost his inhibitions. This is the person folks call “lit” or “buzzed.”
  - 2) A person in this state might be referred to as “Ten feet tall and bulletproof.” They think nothing can hurt them. This action is condemned in Galatians 5:19-21 just as it is in 1 Peter 4:3.
- C. **“Banquetings”** means a drinking, drinking bout, or an assembling together for the purpose of drinking (Strong’s).
- 1) In modern terminology, we might refer to this as the times when folks are invited for cocktails or the social drinking that is encouraged at weddings, “wine tastings,” or times when folks have a beer after work, etc.

## Summary

- 1. The bottom line as far as God is concerned is that we are not to be engaged in the recreational use of alcohol.**
- 2. God condemns it in the Old and New Testaments.**
- 3. Sadly, there are people, including some Christians, who deny plain statements of Scripture like we have read and will attempt to justify social drinking with certain Scriptures.**
- 4. What kind of arguments do men make to try to justify the consumption of alcohol?**
  - A. We will study some of these arguments in part 3 of our series on "wine."**

