

## Wine - 3

### Introduction

1. We are continuing our series on “wine” in the Bible.
2. We are in the process of determining if it is acceptable for a Christian to drink alcohol socially or recreationally and be acceptable to God.
3. Let us now begin with our third lesson in this four part series.

### Arguments Used to Drink Alcohol “Socially”

- **“Jesus turned water into wine.”**
1. This is probably the number one proof that many offer for justifying social drinking. This was Jesus’ first miracle.  
**John 2:1-11**
    - A. Many say that Jesus made alcoholic wine at the wedding in Cana because the governor of the feast said after tasting Jesus’ wine that they had saved the “good wine” until last.
      - 1) Those who suggest that the statement about “good wine” means it had a strong alcohol content are actually confessing their preference rather than teaching what the Bible says.
      - 2) The word “good” in this text comes from the Greek word “kalon.” It means, “excellent in nature and characteristics .... superior” (Thayer). Another definition of “good” is “beautiful...valuable, virtuous, better, fair .... honest, well, worthy” (Strong’s)

- ◆ **This word is NEVER used in the Bible to describe the potency of alcohol or any other drug.**

2. **Sometimes it is argued that the people at the wedding were drinking alcohol because the text says that these people had “well drunk.”**
  - A. **Some assume that the guests had been drinking alcohol already (v.10).**
    - 1) **This is a wrong assumption because “well drunk” refers to the amount consumed, not the state of inebriation.**
3. **To better understand what had happened in this miracle, let us examine the context of John 2:1-11.**
  - A. **We find that Jesus was told that the wine (“oinos” had been consumed (v.3). Jesus then commanded the servants to bring Him six waterpots, each with the ability to hold 20-30 gallons (v.6). Jesus told them to fill the pots with water.**
    - 1) **This means there was between 120-180 gallons of water before the Lord. This water was then turned into “wine.”**
    - 2) **Based on what we have studied about the word “wine,” why would we assume Jesus was making alcohol? It is probably because of our 21<sup>st</sup> century assumptions rather than respecting the context of the book of John.**

**B. Let us for a moment just assume – that Jesus made alcohol as His first miracle. Jesus was then attending a drunken feast, and now has provided between 120-180 additional gallons of alcohol for these drunk people to continue consuming!**

- 1) Does this really sound like something the Son of God, who did no sin, would be doing? (1 Peter 2:22)**
- 2) If Jesus was making over one hundred gallons of alcohol, does this sound like a place Jesus would want to bring His mother and disciples? (John 2:1-2)**
- 3) Would the sinless Savior be involved in breaking one of God's commands concerning drunkenness by making MORE alcohol?**

Habakkuk 2:15 "Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor, Pressing him to your bottle, Even to make him drunk, That you may look on his nakedness!

- 4) Would Jesus be involved in making something that God calls a "mocker?"**

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

**5) Does it really make any sense that Jesus would be involved in doing one thing and then inspiring His apostles to write something else to future Christians?**

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. 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.

**4. Who can really believe that Jesus would perform a miracle which would itself result in His sinning and disqualifying Himself from being our Savior – a lamb without BLEMISH!**

1 Peter 2:21-22 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps**: (22) "WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH";

**1) People take a miracle that was used by Christ to show His deity (John 2:11) and turn it into a justification for social drinking — Those who do this should be ashamed!**

- **“Deacons can drink a ‘little’ wine. Social drinking is acceptable for a deacon but not for an elder.”**

**1. This is a misunderstanding of 1 Timothy 3:8.**

1 Timothy 3:8 Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, **not given to much wine**, not greedy for money,

**A. After reading this passage, some have tried to distinguish between “much” and “little” in the text. This simply is not good Bible reasoning.**

**1) When we really study the text, we find that God is saying not to be addicted to much wine. This was the point. In other Bible translations, the true emphasis of this verse is seen.**

**B. When we realize that God doesn’t want deacons “addicted” to much wine, can they be addicted to a little wine and be okay? Obviously not!**

**C. God doesn’t want elders of the church drinking wine (1 Timothy 3:3) and He doesn’t want deacons of the church addicted to wine!**

1 Timothy 3:3 **not given to wine**, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;

**1) These are simply two different ways of saying the same thing. The point is that God does not want men or women drinking alcoholic drinks!**

**2) 1 Timothy 3:8 does NOT justify deacons drinking a “little” alcohol!**

- **“Timothy was told to drink wine”**

1 Timothy 5:23 No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.

**1. This is a true statement.**

**A. Does such a statement justify social drinking?**

**B. Does Paul's statement somehow justify the argument that men can drink a little wine and promise not to get drunk?**

**2. In studying 1 Timothy 5, we find Paul encouraging the drinking of wine, not for social purposes, but for Timothy's health problems.**

**A. Evidently he had stomach problems of some sort, and Paul thought drinking some “wine” would help him.**

**3. Before assuming that 1 Timothy 5 is speaking of alcoholic wine, let us remember that “wine” (“oinos”) is a generic term.**

**A. In his 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy commentary, Marshall Patton says grape juice was the drink of Rome and was often mixed with hot or cold water and even spices. Actually, for sick people like Timothy, the grape juice had its gluten filtered out, making it impossible for it to be fermented. In Rome, they used filtered grape juice like this as a medicine. Therefore, Paul was telling Timothy to drink grape juice to help his stomach problems.**

(Patton, Marshall, Truth Commentaries, 1 Timothy, p. 131-132)

4. **1 Timothy 5:23 is not a passage encouraging Timothy to kick back and drink a beer or have a glass of wine with his meal or get a drink after work.**
  - A. **There are times today when people today use certain medicines that contain alcohol (certain medicines like NyQuil or Vicks 44, make us sleepy when we take them). This is for our benefit and not for “recreational” or “social” use.**
5. **Even if we knew with 100% certainty that Paul wanted Timothy to drink alcohol, it is in this context (medicinal) that Paul said it.**
  - A. **1 Timothy 5:23 is NOT a passage that justifies the social or recreational drinking of alcohol.**

## **Conclusion**

1. **I greatly encourage every single Christian to develop a thinking process that says “what can I do that will show my devotion to God and living for Him, and at the same time be a good example to others.”**
  - A. **If this is truly our mind set, then we will not even think about consuming a drink that causes us to sin and be a negative influence to others.**  
**Philippians 2:1-5**
2. **Our final lesson on “wine” in this series will deal with a few questions concerning wine in the Bible.**

