

## **Is It Wrong To Drink Alcoholic Beverages?**

*“Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.”* (Proverbs 23:31-32).

YES! It is wrong to drink alcoholic beverages! It is a sin! I can state this with all confidence because my answer is based entirely on the Word of God. *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.”* (Psalm 119:11-12). *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”* (John 17:17).

It is hypocritical when those who have no respect for God or His Word use the Bible to justify their drinking of alcoholic beverages. Scripture reveals the blindness of the minds of those who are lost and that they are the servants to sin. *“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”* (2 Corinthians 4:4). *“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin:...”* (Romans 6:12-13).

It is very discouraging the growing number of those who claim to be born again believers who drink alcoholic beverages. Pastors no longer want to preach sound Bible doctrines. They realize that if they were to preach and teach the whole counsel of God in truth, they would meet with opposition and their membership would dwindle. Instead, they are promoting ecumenicalism in their quest for religious unity. *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having*

*itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” (2 Timothy 4:3-4).*

Therefore, it is not hard to understand why so many believe that it is permissible to drink alcoholic beverages and use the Bible to justify their drinking. Many who claim to be born-again simply are not and are listening to the blind religious teachers of the day. *“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.” (2 Peter 2:1).*

Everywhere you turn there is some so called Bible scholar promoting his opinion, and because he claims to be a scholar, many receive what he has to say as the truth. If only each person would take the time to study the Scriptures to see whether or not it is true. *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1).* *“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.” (Romans 16:17-18).*

Let us not forget to mention that the newspapers and the daily news are filled with the casualties resulting from the consequences of this sin committed by those who are under the influence of alcohol. Law enforcement agencies continually warn of the dangers involved with drinking alcoholic beverages.

If there is nothing biblically wrong with drinking alcoholic beverages, then why do many feel the need to twist the

Scriptures to defend their actions? In trying to justify their sin, they are attacking God and His Word.

Does the Greek word for wine, oinos, indicate that the wine is fermented?

NO!

The Greek word oinos itself does not prove the wine is or is not intoxicating. The Greek word oinos is used to signify any drink which is produced from any fruit or vegetable, where the juice is extracted by various methods of pressing. The definition of oinos is the blood of the grape. *“Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.”* (Deuteronomy 32:14). The word wine by itself does not indicate it is fermented or not. What determines if it is fermented or not is according to the circumstances.

Fermentation is not a natural occurrence. Alcohol is not a product of the vine. It is a controlled process that requires human participation and the right environmental conditions. Grapes left on a vine will not ferment, they will simply dry up and rot. When juice is pressed from grapes or other fruits and vegetables, it is called wine. This is the process that is used to manufacture juice. In order for this juice to become intoxicating, it must undergo the fermentation process. Under controlled conditions, the natural sugar that is present in the juice turns into alcohol. When this grape juice undergoes the fermentation process, it is still by definition wine, but has a totally different taste and characteristics. God created many varieties of fruits and vegetables for man’s nutritional benefit. It is man who has corrupted what God created and called good.

Does the Bible teach total abstinence from drinking alcoholic beverages?

YES!

Scripture has many verses that show God's displeasure and judgment on the making, the drinking and the selling of alcoholic beverages.

"The Bible has more to say about booze than it does about lying, swearing, stealing, cheating, hypocrisy, pride and blasphemy. Throughout the Bible there are over 600 references to drink and drinking." (BOOZE The Devil's Nuclear Bomb by Pastor Perry F. Rockwood, published by The Peoples Gospel Hour, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada).

*"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;"* (Ephesians 5:18). We are to completely abstain from all types of intoxicating beverages. As born again believers we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. We are commanded to let the Holy Spirit have full control over our soul, mind and body, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit. *"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? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

The word *"filled"* has the meaning of complete fullness, influence over, controlling force. The Holy Spirit should have complete control over our soul, mind and body. Our every step should be under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way."* (Psalm 37:23). We should never allow the negative, controlling influence of alcohol from intoxicating beverages to

have any controlling influences over us in any manner. Once the alcohol enters into the blood system, it lowers our defense and makes it easier for us to give into temptation.

One of the many side effects of alcohol is the negative affect it has on one's mind and one's reasoning abilities. In some cases, it has the same effect as mind altering drugs. People's personalities change; they say and do things that they would never have said or done when in their right mind. Scripture tells us of the horrifying and devastating actions of those who are under the influence of intoxicating beverages. It has a negative influence on the body and mind. To drink intoxicating beverages at all is a SIN. When the child of God consumes any intoxicating beverage, he is also guilty of grieving the Holy Spirit and is disobeying God's command in Ephesians 5:18, that all born again believers are to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Daniel and his three Hebrew companions, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, refused to drink the king's wine because it was fermented. God greatly blessed them for their obedience and stand. *"As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm."* (Daniel 1:17-20).

Drinking alcohol causes spiritual blindness. *"But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of*

*the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.”* (Isaiah 28:7). The Bible teaches complete abstinence: 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7; Proverbs 23:31.

Does the Bible advocate the drinking of alcohol in moderation because Paul instructed Timothy to no longer drink water but a little wine?

NO!

When Paul told young Timothy, “*Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.*”, it is obvious that Paul was referring to juice, perhaps grape or another type of fruit or vegetable juice. Why is that so hard to understand? Over the last several years there is more scientific proof fruit and vegetable juices are beneficial to good health. Wine (juice) in its unfermented state, is an excellent source of vitamins. However, when the wine (juice) undergoes the fermentation process, which turns the sugar that is present in the juice into alcohol, it no longer has any nutritional value.

Do you really believe that the Apostle Paul would instruct his son in the faith, Timothy, to drink something that would cause him spiritual and physical harm?

Did Jesus drink intoxicating wine and was the water that Jesus turned into wine fermented?

NO!

First of all, those who falsely accuse Jesus of drinking and making intoxicating wine are guilty of blasphemy. They do

greatly err not knowing the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, nor the Scriptures.

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* (John 1:1). This is just one of many verses throughout Scripture (Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21) that declares the Deity, Holiness, Righteousness, and the Sinless Perfection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us not forget God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, performed this miracle. If this miracle wine was intoxicating, then Jesus would have been under the curse according to the Word of God. *“Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!”* (Habakkuk 2:15). Notice the *“Woe”* that is attached to this verse. God said it! That settles it! Ye of little faith. What don't you understand? It was biblically impossible for the Lord Jesus Christ to drink or make intoxicating wine. This would be contrary to God's Word which is settled in heaven. God's Word is truth! God is bound by His Word: *“...for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”* (Psalm 138:2). Because of God's holiness He CANNOT go against His Own Word. *“But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness.”* (Isaiah 5:16).

*“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:”* (James 1:13). It is not difficult to understand what the Holy Spirit is teaching us from this verse. God CANNOT be tempted with evil because He is Holy and Righteous. God does not and CANNOT tempt man with evil. *“He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.”* (Deuteronomy 32:4).

Only those in spiritual darkness would say that the wine in John Chapter 2 was intoxicating. Furthermore, if it were, then James 1:13 would have to be taken out of the Bible, along with many other verses.

Do these false teachers fully comprehend what they are saying and the seriousness of their accusations? Do these false teachers realize they are calling a Holy, Righteous and Loving God a liar? Do these false teachers realize they are teaching rebellion against God and His Word?

The Word of God makes it very clear that God does not and cannot tempt man with evil, for God is Holy and Righteous. Nevertheless, these false teachers, refusing to believe God's Word or being ignorant themselves, are trying to convince men that the Lord tempted man with intoxicating wine. By this false claim they are denying the Deity, Holiness and Righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. This miracle wine (pure grape juice) was one of a kind. When the word wine is used in the Bible, it is easy to understand if it is referring to fermented wine or simply fruit or vegetable juice.

Man tries to justify his sin by blaming God. Man has no one to blame but himself for his evil doings. Just as Adam blamed his sin on God when he said, "...*The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.*" (Genesis 3:12). This is exactly what those who falsely accuse Jesus of drinking and turning water into intoxicating wine are doing.

Scripture clearly teaches that the Levitical priests were forbidden to drink fermented wine. "*And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying, Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations: And that ye may put difference*

*between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean; And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.” (Leviticus 10:8-11).*

The Lord Jesus Christ is our great High Priest. *“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:14-16).*

Take the time to read what the Word of God has to say about the New Testament Church. *“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:15-16).*

*“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 2:5).*

*“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:” (1 Peter 2:9).*

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” (Romans 12:1).*

God the Holy Spirit CANNOT lead anyone contrary to His Word. The Holy Spirit guides us in all truth. *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:...” (John 16:13).* Man is without excuse. *“There hath no*

*temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13).*

*“Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.” (1 Corinthians 6:10). The Lord Jesus Christ went to Calvary’s cross for you and for me. He shed His precious blood to pay that great sin debt and to set us free from the power of sin. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” (Romans 3:23). That’s right, Jesus died for the thieves, the covetous, the drunkards, the revilers, the extortioners and for all mankind so that we, by believing on Him, can inherit the kingdom of God. “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:23).*

*“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;” (Ephesians 1:7).*

*“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7).*

*“And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.” (1 John 3:5).*

*“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:1-2).*

*“Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;” (Romans 3:25).*

*“Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:” (Galatians 1:4).*

The Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to deliver thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortioners, not to contribute to making them such.

*“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.” (1 Timothy 1:15).*

