



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

THIS SUNDAY IS 'FATHER'S DAY! WE ENCOURAGE THE GIVING OF GIDEON BIBLES IN APPRECIATION or IN MEMORY OF FATHERS!

Volume 46, No. 24, June 15, 2021 / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD***

JESUS CHRIST!

SOUND REASONS NOT TO DRINK ALCOHOL!

SEVERAL YEARS BACK, A WELL RESPECTED CHRISTIAN LEADER was arrested and charged with four DUI accounts, including felony charges for being under the influence with a minor in the vehicle, and at twice the legal limit. THIS LEADER had not been shy about his beliefs regarding alcohol:

[1] He wrote the forward to the book, ***A History of Alcohol in the Church,*** stating, ***"It's not enough that we should drink, but that we ought to drink well."***

[2] In a BLOG, he asked: ***"Would you please, (so as not to cause me to stumble), stop suggesting that it is wrong to drink alcohol in moderation, or that drinking alcohol in moderation somehow is a failure to love my brothers?"***

[3] He wrote that, **DURING HIS COLLEGE YEARS, *"I learned that perhaps the greatest sport a jock might aspire to, was chugging beer. And I learned that I was pretty good at it."*** REALITY: HIS FLESH, HIS FRIENDS, HIS BELIEF SYSTEM, HIS PRIDE, and ALCOHOL — TEAMED UP and DECEIVED HIM.

IT IS NEEDFUL TO SET FORTH SOUND REASONS NOT TO DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES— (Gleaned from several sources... listed in no certain order.) **BECAUSE** alcohol kills brain cells and delays thinking and reaction time. As one who wants to be sharp and alert, alcohol is

counterproductive. **BECAUSE alcohol has the potential to greatly impair my reaction time and my discernment**, I do not think it is wise to put it in my system and operate heavy machinery. Driving a car is operating heavy machinery. **BECAUSE** people WHO claim that they will not get behind the wheel if they've had too much to drink— frequently do anyway, and **BECAUSE** alcohol impairs my judgment, I do not want to have to worry about whether or not I am correctly assessing my ability to drive a vehicle **BECAUSE** I might not be in the proper state of mind to make that decision for myself!

BECAUSE so many people in our society have chosen to drink alcohol and drive and have therefore been the cause of so many deaths on the roads and highways, **I do not want to be part of something that has caused so much pain and heartache for so many people.**

BECAUSE I know that **a person who never takes a single drink of alcohol will never become addicted to alcohol**, I believe the wise and loving thing to do is to abstain from alcohol use myself.

BECAUSE as New Testament Christians we have the Holy Spirit, we do not need wine to “gladden the heart!” **BECAUSE** alcohol is such a common factor in crime, domestic violence, and as an entry drug to more illicit drugs, it seems wise to simply avoid alcohol altogether. **BECAUSE** many people who have overcome alcohol addiction are best helped in their sobriety by avoiding social situations in which alcohol is present, the loving thing to do is avoid using or serving alcohol. **BECAUSE nowhere in the Bible is abstaining from alcohol looked down upon or considered unwise;** and **BECAUSE** people who abstained from alcohol were presented in the Bible in a positive light for their decision or vow to abstain, it is certainly wise and favorable to abstain today. **BECAUSE I do not want to be tempted to run to alcohol during stressful times, but instead I want to run to God.**

BECAUSE as a pastor I have seen first-hand the heartache in homes in which alcohol addiction was present, and **BECAUSE** I know that addiction is an easy thing to fall into, I want to have an alcohol free home

BECAUSE the alcohol industry promotes an advertising LIE: All of their ads show all drinkers as perfectly happy and healthy people with no problems. Their ads say, in effect, 'Here's the path to true living and good times!' **SUCH IS NOT THE CASE; for IN REALITY they are promoting the substance which is the #1 drug problem in America.**

BECAUSE according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration a person dies every 33 minutes in an alcohol related accident. Consider these additional statistics from the United States Justice Department: Nearly 4 in 10 violent victimizations involve use of alcohol.

BECAUSE victim reports show, on average each year about 183,000 rapes and sexual assaults INVOLVE ALCOHOL use by the offender, as do just over 197,000 robberies, about 661,000 aggravated assaults, and nearly 1.7 million simple assaults.

THE HOLY BIBLE IS TRUE! "Wine *is* a mocker, strong drink *is* raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise!" Proverbs 20:1

1. DRINKING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LEADS TO DRUNKENNESS: In the April 24, 1965 issue of **Christianity Today**, the article, on page 25 says, "**People must be informed that the use of alcohol is not unlike Russian roulette: every tenth person becomes automatically hooked. The only solution is total abstinence.**" These statistics are supported by the American Medical Association.

DRUNKENNESS IS CONDEMNED IN THE BIBLE: **Isaiah 5:11**-- "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!" **Proverbs 23:20**-- "Be not among winebibbers;" The word means to drink so much that you become tipsy or drunk. **Romans 13:13** -- "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting (drunken partying) and drunkenness (general drunkenness)..." **Galatians 5:19a & 21** -- "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these...drunkenness..." **Ephesians 5:18** -- "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;"

DRUNKARDS ARE AMONG THE LIST OF THOSE WHO WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 "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, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

2. THE BIBLE CONDEMNS STRONG DRINK: Proverbs 20:1 "Wine is a mocker, **strong drink** is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." NOTE again, **Isaiah 5:11** -- "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow **strong drink**; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!"

Proverbs 23:29-31 -- "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? (30) They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.(a mixture of wine and spices) (31) Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright."

WHAT WAS "STRONG DRINK" IN BIBLE TIMES? Distillation was not discovered until about 1500 A.D. Strong drink and unmixed wine in Bible times was from 3% to 11% alcohol. Dr. John MacArthur says **"...since anybody in biblical times who drank unmixed wine (9-11% alcohol) was definitely considered a barbarian, then we don't even need to discuss whether a Christian should drink hard liquor--that is apparent!"**

CHRISTIANS SHOULD NOT DRINK STRONG DRINK! Since **wine** has 9 to 11% alcohol and one brand 20% alcohol, you should not drink that. **Brandy** contains 15 to 20% alcohol, so that's out! Hard liquor has 40 to 50% alcohol (80 to 100 proof), and that is obviously excluded! Someone will say, "Since beer is only 4% alcohol, ITS OK FOR A BELIEVER TO DRINK BEER, RIGHT?" The answer is NO! Here's why...

3. IN BIBLE TIMES WHAT CHRISTIANS DRANK WAS SUB-ALCOHOLIC

The Hebrew word "**yayin**" and the Greek word "**oinos**" -- These were the companion words for wine whether fermented or unfermented. In fact, whether fermented or not, it was **MIXED WITH WATER**. Norman Geisler,

former Dean of Liberty Center for Christian Scholarship, Liberty University, has written: "Many wine drinking Christians today mistakenly assume that what the New Testament meant by wine is identical to wine used today. This, however, is false. In fact, **today's wine is by Biblical definition strong drink, and hence forbidden by the Bible.** What the Bible frequently meant by **wine was basically purified water,**" purified by adding some alcoholic wine. Geisler goes on to say, "Therefore, **Christians ought not to drink wine, beer, or other alcoholic beverages for they are actually strong drink forbidden in Scripture.** Even ancient pagans did not drink what some Christians drink today."

All alcoholic beverages used in our culture fall under the biblical **classification of STRONG DRINK** and are therefore forbidden. The least ratio of water to wine mixture used in Bible times was 3 parts water to 1 wine. That produced a sub-alcoholic drink that was 2.5% to 2.75% alcohol. Normally, the ratio was even higher, up to 20 to 1. What early believers drank was sub-alcoholic by today's standards.

4. IT WILL CAUSE OTHERS TO STUMBLE: **Romans 14:21** says "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to **"to drink wine**, nor anything whereby thy brother **stumbleth**, or is offended, or is **made weak.**"

Innumerable Christians claim their "Christian Liberty" when it comes to social drinking. In order to do that, they must turn their backs on this passage of Scripture. **"Sipping Saints"** have given multitudes of people an excuse to drink.

More than once, I have heard a believer say "there is nothing wrong with drinking in moderation. **The problem is, drinking often sets off a chain reaction of influences that are like tipping over the first domino.** Drinking causes some to stumble, others to be offended, and many to be weakened. According to a survey done by the Daily Journal newspaper, October 26, 1988, one of the top five reasons teenagers drink is because their parents drink. This has proven true time and time again. **Let me take it one step further: Parents, you must remember that whatever you do in moderation your child will likely do in excess.** The Bible clearly defines drinking as an activity that is to be foregone because it causes others to stumble and makes them weak (fall into sin).

5. IT HARMS OUR BODIES WHICH ARE THE LORD'S: I 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? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." **I Corinthians 3:16-17** "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

The first effect of alcohol on the brain is to dull the capacity for self-criticism and the sense of caution. A lessening of care and anxiety follows this. The checks on irresponsibility and unreasonable behavior are also curtailed. Actions follow the impulses, which is dangerous. **Reaction time becomes slower; coordination is disturbed;** drowsiness follows.

Proverbs 23:29-33 gives clear testimony to the above description of alcohol on the brain. **"Who** hath woe? **Who** hath sorrow? **Who** hath contentions? **Who** hath babbling? **Who** hath wounds without cause? **Who** hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. 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. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things."**

Dr. Robert Haas, M.D... a former president of the American College of Sports Nutrition... said, "**Beer, wine, and hard liquor form toxic substances called aldehydes that can destroy the liver, kidney and brain cells.** Aldehydes serve a useful function in preserving or pickling dead animal tissue, but they serve no beneficial purpose in people. **Alcohol dehydrates (robs) your body of its precious water supply, and along with the water go vital nutrients such as B Vitamins, calcium, magnesium, and potassium."**

Alcohol has adverse effects on your esophagus, stomach & intestines, bloodstream, pancreas, liver, heart, bladder, kidneys,

glands and your brain. "The most drastic and noticed effect of alcohol is the brain. It depresses brain centers, progressively produces un-coordination, confusion, disorientation, stupor, anesthesia, coma, death. Alcohol kills brain cells, and brain damage is permanent" (From-Office of Highway Safety, Madison, WI)

As believers, our body belongs to the Lord. We should not knowingly do anything that would harm it. Alcohol harms the body, therefore we should not drink alcohol.

6. ALCOHOL IS ADDICTIVE: I Corinthians 6:12 tells us that we are not to "be brought under the power" or to be controlled by anything. The only exception is the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18) Alcohol is clearly a powerful substance (Proverbs 23:35). Because alcohol is addictive, we should choose **not** to drink alcoholic beverages.

7. BELIEVERS ARE KINGS AND PRIESTS SEPARATED UNTO GOD

"The prophets, the kings, the Nazarites, the leaders -- those who were special in the plan of God were called to be total abstainers." Kings and PRIESTS were not to drink (Proverbs 31:4-5). Further Dr. Dixon says "the priests of the Old Testament were to abstain totally." The Aaronic priests were not to drink because they ministered in the tabernacle before the Lord (Leviticus 10:9)

The application: Believers are a "royal" or kingly priesthood (I Peter 2:9). We are the temple of God (I Peter 2:5). We are God's special children and should choose total abstinence.

Drinking socially is a worldly activity and in light of the fact that believers are **neither to be conformed to the world** (Romans 12:2) **nor love the world** (I John 2:15) our choice should be clear.

We ARE to be **SEPARATE FROM** the world (II Corinthians 6:17) and **LIGHT TO** the world (Ephesians 5:8; Philippians 2:15).

Perhaps social drinking has enhanced the acceptability of Christians in society, but it has not advanced the cause of Christ!

Social drinking is simply a means which the devil uses to blunt our testimony for Christ and squeeze us into his mold! **YES, THE CHRISTIAN LEADER, [SO CONFIDENT that social drinking is just fine; and so ready to condemn warnings as just being narrow minded and legalistic!] —**

I CERTAINLY DO NOT REJOICE; BUT HE was arrested and charged with four DUI accounts, including felony charges for being under the influence with a minor in the vehicle, and at twice the legal limit.

REALITY: That tragic day was rooted all the way back to his college days! WE SOW. SOONER OR LATER, WE REAP! **MORE SOWING AND REAPING:**

In 2016, Apologia Church in Phoenix, Arizona, held a ReformConference that included a time of “talking theology over beer” at a local pub. “Attendees could participate in a beer flight, which is a sampling of various beers.” Speakers included Reformed apologist James White. The same year, Apologia Church sponsored a Booze and Tattoos event and published a promotional video online. One of the men featured in the video is the son-in-law of James White. He subsequently “fell off the wagon, committed adultery, and ended up in rehab and divorced” (Pulpit and Pen, Feb. 17, 2020).

Social, moderate drinkers drive drunk, like former Christian leader, R.C. Sproul, Jr... or fall off the wagon, like White’s son-in-law... or, like multitudes of social drinkers— they become drunkards... PLAYING WITH FIRE, they get BURNT and DESTROY many others also!

Above all else... AS IT IS WHEN ANY CHRISTIAN publicly sins— the name of Christ is drug in the mud; and sinners are encouraged to BLASPHEME God, even as when King David sinned. LET EVERY ONE OF US TAKE HEED!

Sooner or later, sin's wages demand to be paid! LET US PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER AND ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST LIKE LIVING! (Article developed from several sources, some years back, recently updated... but sorry.... Links not known...)

Grace to one and all! / James Bell / www.southsidegallatin.org

NEWS NOTES:

EVERY Saturday, * 8:00am — Men's Bible Study: *THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS!*** (Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!)

***** Ladies Bible Study— Taking a SUMMER BREAK! IN THE MEANTIME— Go to www.southsidegallatin.org and CLICK on YouTube!**

SUNDAY SERVICES: June 20, 27:

***** Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

***** WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

Additional Sunday Events for JUNE 2021:

1. JUNE 20, LORD'S SUPPER, at end of Morning Worship; and HOME GROUPS, in the evening.

2. JUNE 27, 5:00pm-6:00pm- Church Wide DISCIPLESHIP!

TUESDAYS: WEEKLY Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... Tuesdays a 7:15pm... at Jaden and Rhi's home...

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ SOUTHSIDE:

6:30pm— Come in by the back ‘double doors’ under the Drive Thru awning!

**** Adult Prayer Service**

**** Young FAMILIES [Parents and Children] Prayer Service**

**TO RECEIVE LIVE STREAMING FOR JUNE 20,
(OR simply to connect with our YouTube page, for a variety
of messages) — GO TO: www.southsidegallatin.org**

***** LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or by
ONLINE GIVING: SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to
Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church,
P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066 OR, you may choose to
GIVE, via ONLINE GIVING:**

<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>

**IT IS A MATTER OF SAFETY for all: NO UNSUPERVISED
CHILDREN ANY WHERE IN THE CHURCH BUILDING!**