

Should a Christian drink alcohol?

1Ti 3v3 **Not given to wine**, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

See also Titus 1v7 **For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;**

Now here comes ANOTHER 'controversial' topic – 'Should a Christian drink alcohol?'

It's interesting to note that when the Scriptures talk about the office of a bishop/elder/pastor, it mentions about WINE! Interesting!

Now this study on wine was a real eye opener for me & I am TOTALLY convinced that it is WRONG for any Christian to TOUCH a drop of alcohol...

The first thing to look at is the word 'WINE!' Does it always refer to FERMENTED i.e. alcoholic wine in the Scriptures? If so Jesus drank alcoholic wine; He also turned the water into alcoholic wine!

Webster's dictionary states 'Wine, the FERMENTED juice of grapes; 'MUST' – the UNFERMENTED juice of the grape!' (Must (mustum), is the expressed juice of the grape!)

Let me start with a few 'quotes...'

'The indispensable conditions for fermentation are the exact proportions of sugar, of gluten or yeast (i.e. leaven!), & of water, with the temperature of the air ranging between 50 degrees to 75 degrees.'

Count Chaptal, the eminent French chemist, says, 'Nature NEVER forms spirituous liquors; she rots the grape upon the branch; but it is art which converts the juice into (alcoholic) wine.'

Professor Turner, in his Chemistry, says of alcohol, 'It does NOT exist already formed in plants, but is a product of fermentation.'

Adam Fabroni, an Italian writer, says, 'Grape juice does NOT ferment in the grape itself.'

Professor Donovan, in his work on Domestic Economy, mentions 3 methods by which all fermentation could be prevented...

- 1) Grape-juice will NOT ferment when the air is completely excluded
- 2) By boiling down the juice, or, in other words, evaporating the water, the substance becomes a syrup, which if very thick will NOT ferment
- 3) If the juice be filtered & deprived of its gluten (i.e. yeast), or ferment, the production of alcohol will be impossible

Dr Ure said that fermentation may be tempered or stopped by the separation of the YEAST, either by the filter or subsidence.

Parkinson, in his Theatrum Botanicum said 'The juice pressed out of the ripe grapes is called wine!'

Dr E Smith said that 'the only form in which the unfermented juice of the grape is preserved is that of dibbs, which may be called grape molasses. Dr Smith here confirms the ancient usage of boiling the unfermented juice of the grape. The ancients called it WINE; the present inhabitants call it dibbs!'

The fabricating of an intoxicating liquor was never the chief object for which the grape was cultivated among the Jews.

The Rev Dr Jacobus, commenting on the wine made by Christ, says: 'This wine was NOT that fermented liquor which passes now under that name. All who know of the wines then used will understand rather the UNFERMENTED juice of the grape. The present wines of Jerusalem & Lebanon, as we tasted them, were commonly boiled & sweet, without intoxicating qualities, such as we here get in liquors called wines. The boiling prevents the fermentation. Those were esteemed the best wines which were least strong!'

A familiar illustration & confirmation may be had from the expressed juice of the apple. If the fresh unfermented apple-juice is NOT cider, what is it? Every boy, straw in hand, knows that it is cider – so does every farmer & housewife. After it has fermented, it is also called cider. It is a generic word (generic = general application), applicable to the juice of the apple in all its stages; thus the same is with the word WINE.

Grape juice is called wine whether boiled, filtered, subsided or fumigated. Nicandor says 'And AEneus, having squeezed the juice into hollow cups, called it wine'

Greeks as well as Hebrews called the fresh juice WINE!

Professor M Stuart, on pages 44 & 45 of his Letter to Dr Nott, published 1848, mentions that some forty years ago Judge Swift told him that, when the Hon. O. Elsworth, the first Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court, was on his way to France as ambassador, accompanied by Judge Swift, of Connecticut, as secretary, they were shipwrecked & cast upon the coast of Spain. On their way to Paris, among the mountains of Spain, a wine was strongly urged upon them which would NOT intoxicate. Judge Swift first made the experiment upon himself. He found that it did not produce any tendency of the kind. The Chief-Justice & himself, used to drink a bottle each with their dinner, & a small bottle at night. It was found to be a precious balm to the ambassador, who had become fearfully exhausted by continued sea-sickness.

Judge Swift, continues the Professor, assured me that 'he never, before or since, tasted of anything that would bear comparison with the delicacy & exquisite flavour & refreshing effect of this wine, when taken with due preparation of cooling & mixing with water. He expressed his confident belief that a gallon of it drunk at a time, if a man could swallow down so much, would NOT affect his head in the least degree.'

Smith, in his Greek & Roman Antiquities, says 'The sweet, UNFERMENTED juice of the grape was termed 'gleukos' by the Greeks & 'mustum' by the Romans – the latter word being properly an adjective signifying new or fresh! A portion of the 'must' was used at once, being drunk fresh. When it was desired to preserve a quantity in the sweet state, an amphora was taken & coated with pitch within & without, it was filled with mustum, & corked so as to be perfectly air tight. It was then immersed in a tank of cold fresh water, or buried in wet sand, & allowed to remain for six weeks or two months. The contents, after this process, was found to REMAIN UNCHANGED for a year i.e. NON ALCOHOLIC!'

Chas. Anthon LL.D. in his dictionary of Greek & Roman Antiquities, gives the same receipt & definitions, & fully sustains the position that these preparations of the UNFERMENTED grape-juice were by the ancients known as WINE!

The Passover was celebrated with wine mixed with water. According to Lightfoot, each person – man, woman, & child, - drank 4 cups. Christ & His disciples having celebrated the Passover, He took of the bread & the wine that remained, & instituted the Lord's Supper. The wine was as we believe, the rich syrup of the grape diluted with water. This kind of 'wine' met all the requirements of the law concerning leaven – the true rendering of 'Matsah', according to Dr F.R. Lees, being UNFERMENTED things.

R.M. Pattison showed, from authorities of the highest repute plus personal observation, that the sweet wine, or UNFERMENTED juice of the grape, was of old a popular beverage in Palestine.

The conclusion to which these varied sources of PROOF bring us may thus be stated...

- 1) That UNFERMENTED beverages existed, & were a common drink, among the ancients
- 2) That to preserve their sweet juices, in their hot climate, they resorted to boiling & other methods which DESTROYED the power & activity of the gluten (i.e. yeast), or effectually separated it from the juice of the grape.
- 3) That these UNFERMENTED beverages were called wines, were used, & were highly esteemed.

Professor M. Stuart says, 'Facts show that the ancients not only preserved their wine UNFERMENTED, but regarded it as of a higher flavour & finer quality than fermented wine.'

That they had INTOXICATING wines cannot be denied; all we are stating is that there were also UNFERMENTED wines used!

Let us now read some Scriptures regarding wine & strong drink...

Pr 31v4-7 **It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted. Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.** Leaders urged NOT to drink wine or strong drink because it affects them & they may pervert judgement! We don't NEED strong drink to lift our heavy hearts **for the joy of the LORD is your strength.** (Neh 8v10) We don't NEED drink to help us through sorrows & trials!

Hosea 4v11 **Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.** We are NOT to let anything take away our heart! Our heart belongs to Jesus!

Isa 28v1 **Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which are on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine!**

Isa 28v3 **The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, shall be trodden under feet:**

Isa 28v7 **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.** What amazing verses these are! Not very positive regarding wine & strong drink are they? Wine & strong drink causes many problems; it leads your heart astray & causes you to err from the truth, from the way you should be going. It causes you & OTHERS to stumble; therefore SIMPLY DON'T DRINK! - Rom 14:21 **It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.** Now think about the seriousness of that verse for a moment! What effect does your drinking have on those who are looking at you drink? Oh it's okay to drink BECAUSE 'so & so' drinks! The world saturates itself in drink; why should any Christian want to be associated with the deeds of the world? You should want to be different! Jas 4:4 **Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

Pr 20:1 **Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.** If you drink YOU ARE DECEIVED! It is playing with dynamite! NO ONE starts out to be an alcoholic; remember that!

Now listen, I have given things up in my own life because I KNEW that the Bible, the Scriptures, the Word of God spoke out against these things! I gave them up TO PLEASE the Lord even though I enjoyed doing them; I knew they were wrong & through reading the word of God I KNEW I was doing WRONG when I did them! So if you drink, be honest with yourself, BEFORE God, & GIVE IT UP! You don't NEED it & it certainly does more HARM than good; any idiot can see that!

Ge 9:21 **And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.** If Noah DIDN'T drink he would have been okay!

Isa 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! How many alcoholics have you seen following strong drink & drinking in the early mornings – lots of them! They drink through the day & until the WINE INFLAMES THEM! They know its killing them but they keep going, even denying food just so they can spend more money on drink! Folks, wine & strong drink is a KILLER no matter what ANY Christian says! I have seen the devastation it causes while working at the Trinity Centre, Salvation Army Hostel in Birmingham, Birmingham City Mission & at the Chester City Mission!

Christians who drink are going against the Lord & His word I believe; ALCOHOLIC drink in the Scriptures is used in a negative context 100% of the time throughout the Bible; look up the references yourselves.

Hab 2:15 **Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!** Remember Noah! Who have YOU given a drink to? How many people have become alcoholics through SOMEONE ELSE giving them their FIRST drink?

What about this for an amazing SUMMERY of someone who is DRUNK...

Pr 23:29-35 **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. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.**

What a SUMMERY of someone who is drunk! How true it is! You're not in control of yourself!

Eph 5:18 **And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;** We are told not to be drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but when are you drunk? At what point? Therefore DON'T risk it! Don't drink!

Lu 21:34+35 **And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.** The end is drawing near & we are told NOT to be greedy or to get DRUNK or to get too tangled up with the cares of this life; otherwise we shall be caught up in a snare! Instead we are told to... **Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.** (Luke 21v36)

Ga 5:19 **Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**

But I'm ONLY a social drinker! NOTICE drunkenness is listed with such likes as adultery, fornication, idolatry, witchcraft etc. Are you a SOCIAL fornicator or adulterer?

DON'T DRINK!

The Scriptures talk about 2 classes of WINE; Bad & Good!

BAD WINE...this class of texts refer to wine as...

- 1) The cause of intoxication – this is not disputed!
- 2) The cause of violence & woe - Pro 4v17 **For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.** Pro 23v29+30 **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.

- 3) The cause of self security / confidence / pride (*pint of courage!*) - Isa 56:12 **Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant.** James 4v13-16 **Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.** Hab 2:5 **Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people:** Isa 28:7 **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.**
- 4) Poisonous & destructive - Pr 23:31+32 **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.** It is worth noting here that with this kind of wine we are warned NOT even to look upon it, much less to drink it; & that is because its effects will be like the poisonous, deadly bite of a serpent & the equally fatal sting of the adder! De 32:33 **Their wine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps.** Hos 7v5 **In the day of our king the princes have made him sick with bottles of wine; he stretched out his hand with scorers.** William Parker MD of New York, asks, in his address at the American Association for the cure of inebriates, 'What is alcohol?' – The answer – A poison!
- 5) Condemning those who are devoted to drink - Isa 5:22-24 **Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. 1 Cor 6v10 **Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.****
- 6) The emblem of punishment & of eternal ruin - Ps 60v3 **Thou hast shewed thy people hard things: thou hast made us to drink the wine of astonishment.** Psa 75v8 **For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them. Isa 51v17 **Awake, awake, stand up, O Jerusalem, which hast drunk at the hand of the LORD the cup of his fury; thou hast drunken the dregs of the cup of trembling, and wrung them out. Isa 51:22 **Thus saith thy Lord the LORD, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again: (Read - Jer 25v15-21) Re 16v19 **And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. Re 14v10+11 **The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: **And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.************

GOOD WINE...this class of texts refer to wine as...

- 1) This wine is to be presented at the altar as an offering to God - Num 18v12 **All the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the wheat, the firstfruits of them which they shall offer unto the LORD, them have I given thee.** Note here God has given us all these NATURAL products i.e. oil, wheat & WINE! These terms denote the fruit of the soil in their

NATURAL state, seems probable from the next verse... Num 18v13 **And whatsoever is first ripe in the land, which they shall bring unto the LORD, shall be thine;** This was a first fruit offering, it is associated with oil, & flour, & the first fruits; it is an 'offering of wine for a sweet savour – an offering made by fire, for a sweet savour unto the Lord.' Neh 10v37 **And that we should bring the firstfruits of our dough, and our offerings, and the fruit of all manner of trees, of wine and of oil, unto the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and the tithes of our ground unto the Levites, that the same Levites might have the tithes in all the cities of our tillage.** Note also... Neh 10v39 **For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the corn, of the new wine, and the oil, unto the chambers, where are the vessels of the sanctuary, and the priests that minister, and the porters, and the singers: and we will not forsake the house of our God.** ('new wine' is found in the cluster i.e. grape juice - Isa 65:8 **Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster,**) Note also Neh 13v5 **And he had prepared for him a great chamber, where aforetime they laid the meat offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the corn, the new wine, and the oil, which was commanded to be given to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and the offerings of the priests.**

Now I must stop here for a moment & talk briefly about 'Leaven' –

Let us turn to some Scriptures regarding this word LEAVEN...

Ex 12:15 **Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.**

Ex 12:19 **Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land.**

Ex 13:7 **Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters.**

Ex 34:25 **Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leaven; neither shall the sacrifice of the feast of the passover be left unto the morning.**

Le 2:11 **No meat offering, which ye shall bring unto the LORD, shall be made with leaven: for ye shall burn no leaven, nor any honey, in any offering of the LORD made by fire.**

Le 6:17 **It shall not be baked with leaven. I have given it unto them for their portion of my offerings made by fire; it is most holy, as is the sin offering, and as the trespass offering.**

Le 10:12 **And Moses spake unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons that were left, Take the meat offering that remaineth of the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and eat it without leaven beside the altar: for it is most holy:**

Mt 13:33 **Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.** (The gospel in the Scriptures is likened to the word of God, which in itself is Meat, Bread, Honey, Milk, Apples etc but NEVER LEAVEN or SOUR DOUGH! Note to that the church in Scripture is the Bride of Christ, His Body (Eph 5v24-33), a Wife & a Chaste Virgin but NEVER A 'WOMAN' The 'woman' of Mat 13v33 is NOT the true church! Infact it is the same 'woman' to whom the Holy Spirit calls a 'whore' in Rev 17v1-5. 'SHE' is a CITY built upon 7 mountains, who murders Christians, & whose symbol is a 'golden cup' & who loves 'purple & scarlet' (Rev 17v3+4+6+18). The 'Woman' is the Papal Roman Church! **'Three measures of meal'** – Since the 'meal' is made from wheat, we have the key to the interpretation in our hand! The wheat in v38 are the children of the kingdom, (Mt 13:38 **The field is the world; the good seed (wheat) are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;**) & the children of the Kingdom of God IN THIS AGE are likened unto a lump of WHOLE MEAL – read 1 Cor 5v1-8. The meal here in Mat 13v33 therefore represents the Body of Christ in it's three 'professing' groups: Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox & Protestant. The teaching of this Parable is that the Roman 'Whore' (Rev 17v1-5) will slip her false doctrine/teachings into the body of Christian doctrines until all three groups are SHOT THROUGH with false doctrine! It is a prophecy of a falling away of the body of professing Christian's, & a return to the Roman Catholic system of corruption, which makes up the 'leaven of the Pharisees!') Since this parable can also be found in Luke 13v20+21, as applying to the 'Kingdom of GOD' we may learn positively, that false doctrine is not only found in

the three professing bodies of 'Christendom'; it is also found within the body of born again believers, in the Body of Christ! *Many Christians believe that this passage in Mat 13v33 is talking about the church converting the world with the gospel!*

Mt 16:6 **Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.**

Mt 16:11 **How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?**

Lu 12:1 **In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.**

1Co 5:6 **Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?**

1Co 5:7 **Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:**

1Co 5:8 **Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

Ga 5:9 **A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.**

So what is the SCRIPTURAL/BIBLICAL definition of leaven?

- 1) Leaven is sin in 'type'
- 2) Leaven is FALSE doctrine, ALWAYS, in EVERY case, with NO exceptions – Read Mat 16v6-12, Gal 5v9, 1 Cor 5v6-8

Leaven – Any substance that produces FERMENTATION when added to dough. Leaven may signify the dough already infected by leaven, which was put into the flour so that the leaven could pass through the entire mass before baking. The ancient Israelites would NOT eat LEAVENED bread in celebration of the Passover or even have 'leaven' in their homes during the Passover season (Exo 13v7). Why? - because leaven is sour dough, the equivalent of yeast; which, because of FERMENTATION, signified sin, decay & corruption. 1 Co 5v6 **Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?** Gal 5v9 **A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.**

Leaven was excluded from all offerings placed on the altar to be sacrificed to God (Exo 23v18 +34v25), it was also NOT permitted in meal offerings (Lev2v11 +6v17)

Leaven was forbidden with all sacrifices, whether they were meat or peace offerings (Exo 23v18, 34v25, Lev 6v17, 7v12, 10v12). As ALL the other articles offered in worship were in their nature pure & harmless (i.e. UNFERMENTED) It is strange to say the least that wine should be the ONE exception!

So getting back to our study on GOOD WINE...

Albert Barnes on Isa 24v7 (**The new wine mourneth, the vine languisheth, all the merryhearted do sigh.**) says 'New wine denotes properly 'MUST', or the wine that was newly expressed from the grape & that was NOT FERMENTED, often called new wine or sweet wine!' - Isa 65:8 **Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all. Judg 9v13 **And the vine said unto them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?****

This GOOD WINE is classed among the blessings, the comforts, the necessities of life – When the patriarch Isaac blessed his son Jacob he said **Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine:** Gen 27v28. Of this blessing, Isaac said to Esau (v37) **And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son?** There are many other verses we could look up in regard to the NATURAL blessings of the land DIRECT from God but time does not allow us to (see Deut 7v13, Deut 11v14, Prov 3v10, Joel 3v18, Psalm 104v14+15, Judg 9v13 etc.)

There is a strange impression, very current in our day, that nothing can cheer & exhilarate but alcoholic drinks! Is it not written in Zech 9v7 **For how great is his goodness, and how great is his**

beauty! corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids. (Remember Isa 65:8 **Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster,**) In referring to the nutritious qualities of the corn & wine, the prophet assigns the corn to the young men, & the new wine to the maidens! Here the new wine, THE 'MUST', or UNFERMENTED juice is APPROVED Ps 4v7 **Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased.**

This GOOD WINE is the emblem of spiritual blessings - Isa 55:1 **Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.** Here the prophet, in the name of God, invites all, everyone, to take this wine & milk freely & abundantly. How absurd to say, Buy milk, & drink abundantly of it, for it is innocent & nutritious, & will do you good; & then to say, Come, buy wine, an INTOXICATING beverage, which, if you drink habitually & liberally, will beget the drunkard's appetite & SHUT YOU OUT OF HEAVEN! You see there is harmony between milk & UNFERMENTED wine; its harmless & nutritious, & they properly stand as the symbols of spiritual mercies. (Look up later – Psa 104v15, Judg 9v13, Song of Sol 7v9, Prov 9v2, Song of Sol 5v1 etc)

Such is the invitation to drink abundantly, because spiritual blessings never injure, but always do good to the recipient!

This GOOD WINE is the emblem of the blood of the atonement, by which is the forgiveness of sins & eternal blessedness – In the institution of the Lord's Supper, Christ took the cup & gave thanks saying...Mat 26v26-28 **And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.** Mark 14v22-24 **And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.** The bread & the wine are here united, as in other Scriptures, as blessings, but in this case, as EMBLEMS of the most wonderful manifestation of the divine love to man, i.e. 1 Cor 10v16 **The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?** At the close, Christ said, Mat 26v29 **But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.** Thus the cup is associated with eternal blessedness of the heavenly kingdom!

BAD WINE

Causes intoxication, violence & woes
 Produces sin, ungodliness & self-destruction
 Is the symbol of divine wrath!
 An emblem of eternal damnation

GOOD WINE

Gives comfort & peace
 DOESN'T!
 A symbol of spiritual blessings
 An emblem of eternal salvation

Professor Stuart say's 'My final conclusion is this, Whenever the Scriptures speak of wine as a comfort, a blessing, or a libation (a liquid poured out in honour to God) to God, & rank it with such articles as corn & oil, they mean, they can only mean wine as contained NO ALCOHOL that could have a mischievous tendency; that wherever they denounce it, & connect it with drunkenness & revelling, they can mean only ALCOHOLIC or INTOXICATING wine!'

But the position of the advocates of only one kind of wine is that 'the juice of the grape,' when called wine, was always fermented, & being fermented, was always intoxicating; That fermentation is the essence of wine! ONE EXCEPTION WILL DESTROY THE UNIVERSALLY SWEEPING STATEMENT...

The wine in Egypt - Ge 40:11 **And Pharaoh's cup was in my hand: and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand.**

Plutarch affirms that before the time of Psammetichus, who lived 600 years before Christ, the Egyptians neither drank FERMENTED wine nor offered it in sacrifice.

Josephus' version of the butler's speech is as follows: He said 'that by the king's permission he pressed the grapes into a goblet, & having strained the sweet wine, he gave it to the king to drink, & he received it graciously.'

Dr Adam Clarke on Gen 40v11 '**And Pharaoh's cup was in my hand: and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup,** says 'From this we find that wine anciently was the mere expressed juice of the grape WITHOUT FERMENTATION. The saky, or cupbearer, took the bunch, pressed the juice into the cup, & instantly delivered it into the hands of his master. This was anciently the wine (mustum) of the Hebrews, Greeks & Latins.'

Milton says of Eve, 'For drink the grape she crushed – inoffensive must'

Now that is quite an amazing statement & I'll tell you why but BACKWARDS! First it said INNOFENSIVE MUST i.e. NON alcoholic, NOT FERMENTED, just pure blood of the grape! For the next part I want to lead you back to the FORBIDDEN fruit in the Garden of Eden! This I found incredible!... What was the FORBIDDEN fruit in the Garden of Eden? Most people think it was an apple but the Bible does not say this; *so what was it?*

Gen 2v16+17 **And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**

Now there is one FRUIT that is FORBIDDEN to eat in the Bible - Num 6v2-4 **Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the LORD: He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried. All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk. Now I realise this was forbidden to the Nazarite but it is interesting that it is the ONLY fruit in the Scriptures that was FORBIDDEN!**

Now in Mat 26v26-29 we see that grape juice (note fruit of the vine!) represents BLOOD - **And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.**

It is interesting to note that in Deut 32v13+14 we read... **He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock; 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.**

Blood & the grape/grape juice are connected!

Blood is also FORBIDDEN to eat in the Scriptures...

- 1) Before the Law - Gen 9v4 **But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.**
- 2) During the Law - Le 17:10-14 **And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people. For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. Therefore I said unto the children of Israel, No soul of you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger that sojourneth among you eat blood. And whatsoever man there be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, which hunteth and catcheth any beast or fowl**

that may be eaten; he shall even pour out the blood thereof, and cover it with dust. For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off.

- 3) After the Law - Ac 15:28+29 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

So two items that were forbidden to eat were BLOOD & the GRAPE/GRAPEJUICE!

Now it is even more interesting to note the first miracle in BOTH the OT & the NT...

- 1) OT - Exo 4v8+9 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign. And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land. – Water into Blood!
- 2) NT - John 2v9-11 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now. This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him. Water into Wine/Grape Juice!

Now WATER & BLOOD & GRAPE JUICE are connected! Life comes from WATER - Gen 1v20 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

Another interesting verse is... 2 Kings 3v22 And they rose up early in the morning, and the sun shone upon the water, and the Moabites saw the water on the other side as red as blood:

Another interesting verse in connection with this is... Gen 49v10+11 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh (Shiloh is one of 7 titles of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Pentateuch (The first 5 books of the Bible) & it means the Peace Bringer or Peaceful One) come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes:

Now in Gen 2v23 we read And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

And when the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead He rose without Blood Luke 24v9 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. Why? The answer is in 1 Cor 15v50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Note what trees were in the Garden of Eden...

- 1) Gen 2v17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD & EVIL
- 2) Gen 3v7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. FIG TREE
- 3) Gen 2v9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant

to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. TREE OF LIFE

- 4) Gen 3v18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; THORNS & THISTLE OR BRAMBLE

Now the Bible as you know is the most incredible book in the world & it contains many intriguing & intricate details, one of which is associated with the above trees mentioned. Turn with me to Judges 9...

Starting in reverse order let us see the trees listed here & see the similarity...

- 1) Judg 9v14 **Then said all the trees unto the bramble, Come thou, and reign over us.** BRAMBLE OR THORNS & THISTLE
- 2) Judg 9v8 **The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, Reign thou over us.** Now in regard to the OLIVE TREE turn with me to Rom 11v14-24 it is talking about LIFE from the dead see v15 - **For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?** Verse 17 - **And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;** TREE OF LIFE
- 3) Judg 9v10 **And the trees said to the fig tree, Come thou, and reign over us.** FIG TREE
- 4) Well what tree will the TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD & EVIL BE? Judg 9v12 **Then said the trees unto the vine, Come thou, and reign over us.** VINE TREE – i.e. GRAPES!

I believe the Tree of Knowledge of Good & Evil was a VINE TREE hence the FORBIDDEN fruit was a GRAPE – all makes sense & seems consistent! What an amazing Book this Bible is!

Now Jesus was accused of being a winebibber - Mat 11v19 **The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.** Now some have used this verse to 'prove' that Christ drank wine! Yet we read also that He was accused of being gluttonous, & on another occasion He was accused of having a devil – John 8v48! Now if we believe the first charge on the authority of His enemies, we must believe the other 2 also, on the same authority! Of course ALL were LIES.

The Lord's Supper

Mat 26v26+27 **And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;** Having finished the Passover, the Lord 'took bread', UNLEAVENED, UNFERMENTED bread, & blessed it. This was done always at the Passover, & was by Christ transferred to the Supper. He gave it to His disciples as the symbol of His body!. Then He took the cup, & gave thanks. This also was done on giving the third cup at the Passover. This He also transferred, & gave it to His disciples as the symbol of His blood. We have mentioned about leaven & the representation of sin, thus the bread was UNLEAVENED i.e. UNFERMENTED & so must the wine be UNFERMENTED! Consistency! If leaven was used in any of the Passover sacrifice they were 'cut off from Israel!'

Act 13v37 **But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.** All admit that the bread was UNLEAVENED – i.e. had not passed the FERMENTATION stage - & was, therefore, the proper emblem of the body of Christ, which saw NO corruption! For the same reason, there was a necessity that the wine should be UNFERMENTED, that it might be the fit emblem of the great sacrifice which saw NO corruption! Leaven, because it was corruption, was FORBIDDEN as an offering to God - Exo 34v25 **Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leaven;** If leaven was NOT allowed with the sacrifices, which were the types of the atoning blood of Christ, how much more would it be a violation of the commandment to allow leaven, or that which was fermented, to be the symbol of the blood of the atonement?

Is it probable that Christ took an INTOXICATING liquor, which in all the ages past had been the cause of misery & ruin, & which in all the ages to come would destroy myriads in temporal & eternal destruction; that He took the wine which His own inspired word declared was '*the poison of asps, the poison of serpents, the poison of dragons, whose deadly bite is like a serpent, & whose fatal sting is like an adder,*' & made that the symbol of His blood atonement, saying, 'This is the New Testament in my blood?' But in the fruit of the vine, pure, UNFERMENTED, healthful, life sustaining & that which the Scriptures called the BLOOD OF THE GRAPE & the PURE BLOOD OF THE GRAPE, there was harmony in making this FRUIT OF THE VINE i.e. GOOD WINE, the symbol of atoning blood by which we have spiritual life & eternal blessedness – GRAPE JUICE!

The same reasons above could be used to prove that Jesus did not change the water into INTOXICATING wine! NEW WINE IS FOUND IN THE CLUSTER i.e. GRAPE JUICE! Alcohol is a man made substance! It is not readily found in any plant – God would NOT use it or recommend it! Dr Henry Monroe, in his lecture on Alcohol, says 'Alcohol is nowhere to be found in any product of nature; was NEVER created by God; but is essentially an artificial thing prepared by man through the destructive process of FERMENTATION!'

Who imagines, when the work of creation was finished, that alcohol could then be found in any living thing fresh from the hand of the Creator? God, by His direct act, does NOT make alcohol. The laws of nature, if left to themselves, do NOT produce alcohol! By these laws, the grapes ripen; if not eaten, they rot & are decomposed. The manufacture of alcohol is wholly man's device! Ecc 7v29 **Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.**

Summing up, Patton say's' Let one thing more be now proved, & the whole case is too clear for question. Were the 'ancients in the habit of preserving & using as such, FREE FROM FERMENTATION, this juice of the grape which they called WINE? Beyond all doubt, THEY WERE! The evidence is to be found in almost any classical authority. So say Plato, Columella, Pliny, Aristotle. So indicate Horace, Homer, Plutarch. Some of these ancient writers give in detail the very processes of boiling, filtering, & sulphurization by which the wines were preserved from fermentation.

Anthon, in his Dictionary of Greek & Roman Antiquities, Arch-bishop Potter, in his Grecian Antiquities, Smith, in his Dictionary of the Bible, & many other competent scholars, confirm & support this position.

Moses Stuart, that prince of philologists, says, 'FACTS show that the ancients not only preserved their wines UNFERMENTED, but regarded them as of higher flavour & finer quality than fermented wine!'

There were, therefore, TWO kinds of wine in ancient use. The one was sweet, pleasant, refreshing, UNFERMENTED; the other was exciting, inflaming, INTOXICATING. **Each was called wine!** We confidently believe that the time is not far distant when NO drinker, nor vender, NOR DEFENDER of alcoholic wines, will find shelter, & a house of refuge, IN THE SCRIPTURES OF GOD! Let there be light!'

In closing & summing up...

Some facts! (Regarding the USA, I haven't got the UK figures!)

- 1) 17 million Americans are said to be alcoholics!
- 2) Americans spend \$50 'billion' a year on alcohol!
- 3) Alcohol related problems cost the national economy 469 'billion' each year!
- 4) The leading cause of mental retardation is alcohol use during pregnancy!
- 5) 25,000 Americans die each year in alcohol related accidents! That's 70 a day!
- 6) Alcohol consumption is the leading cause of death for the 15-24 age group!
- 7) 83% of all fire fatalities are alcohol related
- 8) 68% of all drowning is alcohol related
- 9) 80% of all suicides are alcohol related
- 10) 86% of all murders are alcohol related
- 11) 65% of child abuse cases are alcohol related

- 12) At least 200,000 Americans die each year as a result of somebody else's alcohol consumption!
- 13) One out of every 18 persons who takes a drink will become an alcoholic! There is no way of knowing which one it will be. Therefore, the only way to be sure you will not live a drunkard's miserable life & die a drunkard's dreadful death is to TOTALLY ABSTAIN from wine & strong drink!
- 14) Alcohol is addictive! We are told in 1 Cor 6v12 **All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.**
- 15) NOTE – The Bible NEVER uses the word 'wine' in describing the Lord's Supper! It is always referred to as 'the fruit of the vine', which is a GRAPE! It was grape juice NOT fermented wine! Grape juice is a picture of the Lord's BLOOD shed for us! (Deut 32v14 – '**and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.**' is an interesting verse!) Mat 26v29 **But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.** Mark 14v25 **Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.** Luke 22v18 **For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.**
- 16) It is also interesting that the bread used in the Lord's Supper was 'unleavened' i.e. yeast taken out! Leaven speaks of sin in the Scriptures! Alcoholic wine needs FERMNTATION (*i.e. FERMENT means a substance productive of fermentation such as yeast. FERMENTATION is the gradual decomposition of organic compounds induced by the action of living organisms, by enzymes, or by chemical agents; specifically, the conversion of glucose into ethyl alcohol*), which typifies SIN! Therefore it would be reasonable to assume that the FRUIT of THE VINE (note – NOT wine!) used in the Lord's Supper was UNFERMENTED i.e. it was just GRAPE JUICE – i.e. no yeast, no sin! That is much more CONSISTENT! Unleavened bread & 'unfermented' wine – a picture of NO 'SIN' IN EITHER!
- 17) The priests were forbidden to use fermented wines when they entered the holy place in the OT Tabernacle... **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:** (Lev 10v9) These priests, entering into the Tabernacle, were types of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest. If those who were types of the Great High Priest were NOT to use wine or strong drink, it seems inconceivable (incomprehensible, impossible) to us that Jesus would drink FERMENTED wine or strong drink before going to the crucifixion & entering into His high priestly work. Eze 44v21 **Neither shall any priest drink wine, when they enter into the inner court.** Jesus would NOT have drunk FERMENTED, ALCOHOLIC wine! He knew the Scriptures!
- 18) It is interesting to read Isa 65v8 **Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, **Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it...** New Wine is GRAPE JUICE!**
- 19) Remember this verse we touched upon...De 32v14 **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.** i.e. NEW WINE – GRAPE JUICE!
- 20) Pr 3v9+10 **Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.** The firstfruits, barns & presses is in regard to the GRAPE & the presses are pressing out NEW WINE i.e. GRAPE JUICE! Remember there are DIFFERENT meanings for the word WINE in Scripture!
- 21) King's & priests do NOT drink! - Pr 31:4+5 **It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.** Lev 10v8+9 **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: WE ARE KINGS & PRIESTS; THEREFORE WE SHOULD NOT DRINK! 1 Pet 2v9 **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: Rev 5v9+10 **And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God******

by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God **kings and priests**: and we shall reign on the earth.

- 22) It is interesting that the first mention of alcoholic drink is associated with nakedness! Gen 9v20+21

With the EVIDENCE given & the OBVIOUS PROBLEMS ‘alcoholic’ drinks cause, alongside the CLEAR teaching of Scripture, I believe that EVERY Christian should NOT drink.

As I have said on a number of occasions, The Scriptures should be our FINAL AUTHORITY, yet if we are completely HONEST, ‘WE OURSELVES’ are our own FINAL AUTHORITY!

YOU will do what YOU want NO MATTER WHAT THE BIBLE says; *or will you?*

There is so much more I could say regarding the issue of the Christian & ‘alcoholic’ drink but I think the TRUTH has been preached.

For further reading I would suggest the following...

- 1) BOOZE – The Devil’s Nuclear Bomb – By Pastor Perry F. Rockwood
- 2) Wine & The Bible – By Pastor Steve Harmon
- 3) A searching look at the History, Chemistry, Industry & Legacy of ALCOHOL – by T. Allan Dunlop
- 4) Liquid Devil! The BIBLE and the BOTTLE – by Hugh Pyle
- 5) The Double Curse of Booze – by John R. Rice
- 6) **Bible Wines. Laws of Fermentation – by William Patton – Reading the Scriptures is ENOUGH for me NOT to drink wine BUT if there was one book that really CONVINCED me it was WRONG to drink alcohol, it was this book!**
- 7) Did Jesus Drink Wine? – By Dr. Paul E. Heaton
- 8) Alcoholism or Drunkenness? Sin or Disease? – By James M. Resh

I think any HONEST Christian after reading this material would NEVER TOUCH A DROP OF ALCOHOL AGAIN; EVER!

Now to finish with I want to list 55 Bible references on the evils of drinking alcoholic drinks... (plus a couple of other notes!)

- 1) Gen 9v20-27 – The first ‘man of distinction’ & the tragic consequences of his drunkenness!
- 2) Gen 19v30-38 – Drinking results in Lot’s debauchery of his own daughters
- 3) Lev 10v8-11 – The Lord commanded Aaron & his sons not to drink either wine or strong drink while rendering service for God
- 4) Num 6v3 – The vow of the Nazarite excluded drinking wine & strong drink
- 5) Deut 21v20 – Drinking is one of the attributes of a stubborn, rebellious & disobedient son
- 6) Judges 13v4+7 – Samson’s mother was expressly commanded by the angel of the Lord not to drink wine or strong drink
- 7) 1 Sam 25v36-38 – Nabal, a churlish, evil, drinking man was smitten by the Lord
- 8) 2 Sam 11v13 – By the use of strong drink David led Uriah into a fatal trap
- 9) 2 Sam 13v28-29 – Amnon, on drinking spree, was murdered by the servants of his brother, Absalom
- 10) 1 Kings 16v8-10 – While Elah, King of Israel, was ‘drinking himself drunk’ one of his captains who had conspired against him, killed him
- 11) 1 Kings 20v13-21 – While Ben-hadad, King of Syria, & 32 other kings were drinking themselves drunk in their pavilions, a small band of Israelites fell upon the Syrians & put them to flight
- 12) Ester 1v5-22 – After a week’s feasting & drinking King Ahasuerus drunkenly tried to subject Vashti, his queen, to the beastly gaze of the inebriated people & princes
- 13) Prov 20v1 – No wise person will allow himself to be deceived by wine which is a mocker or by strong drink which is raging

- 14) Prov 21v17 + 23v21 – Drinking leads to poverty
- 15) Prov 23v29-30 – Strong drink produces sorrow, woe, contentions, babbling, wounds without cause & redness of eyes
- 16) Prov 23v21 – An admonition to refrain from even looking upon wine
- 17) Prov 23v32 – At the last, alcohol bites like a serpent & stings like an adder
- 18) Prov 23v33 – It fills men’s minds with impure & perverse thoughts
- 19) Prov 23v34 – It brings on danger, accidents & insecurity
- 20) Prov 23v35 – Insensibility follows drinking rendering man into a clod & it is habit forming so that the drinker upon awaking seeks it ‘yet again’
- 21) Prov 31v4+5 – Officials with the responsibility of human life on their hands should not imbibe (drink, drink in, absorb!)
- 22) Ecc 2v3 – The writer of Ecclesiastes tried strong drink but in the end admitted that this too was vanity (Ecc 2v11 + 12v8)
- 23) Ecc 10v17 – That nation is blessed whose leaders eat for strength & refrain from drunkenness
- 24) Isa 5v11+12 – Woe is pronounced on those who give themselves to strong drink
- 25) Isa 5v22 – Further woe is pronounced upon the drunkards
- 26) Isa 23v13 – Drinking often goes with carnal living
- 27) Isa 28v1 – A woe is pronounced upon the drunkards of Ephraim
- 28) Isa 28v3 – The drunkards of Ephraim to be trodden down & destroyed
- 29) Isa 28v7 – Prophets & priest become incapable of spiritual leadership because of their drinking
- 30) Isa 56v12 – Drinking accomplishes foolish optimism & the sinner’s vain hope that his sins will not find him out
- 31) Jer 35v5-8+14+19 – Rechabites who steadfastly held to total abstinence assured of God’s continued blessings
- 32) Dan 1v5+8+16 & 10v3 – Daniel who refused to drink the king’s wine was especially blessed by the Lord
- 33) Dan 5v1+2 – This is the tragic example of a king who drank & who led his people to do likewise
- 34) Dan 5v3 – Drinking leads to profaning sacred things
- 35) Dan 3v25-28 – Moral degradation, of which drinking is a symptom, is ultimately punished by God
- 36) Hosea 4v10+11 – Strong drink & immorality go hand in hand
- 37) Hosea 7v5 – The king by his drinking was not only made sick but became scornful
- 38) Joel 3v3 – Young women were sold for the price of a drink
- 39) Amos 4v1 – Dissolute women, oppressors of the poor, call for their drink
- 40) Amos 6v3-6 – The evil, idle rich who were given to imbibing wine were not concerned about the afflictions of the poor
- 41) Hab 2v5 – Arrogance is inflamed by drink
- 42) Hab 2v15 – It is wrong to lead another to drink
- 43) Hab 2v16 – Drink leads to shame & humiliation
- 44) Mat 24v48-51 – Drinking is not consistent with alertness
- 45) Luke 1v15 – Greatness of John the Baptist linked with total abstinence
- 46) Luke 12v45 – Christ warns against drunkenness
- 47) Luke 21v34 – Drinking prevents men from being prepared for the judgement day
- 48) Rom 13v13 – All are admonished to walk honestly, not in rioting & drunkenness
- 49) Rom 14v21 – Christian are admonished not to drink lest a brother be caused to stumble
- 50) 1 Cor 5v11 – Christians forbidden to keep company with drunkards
- 51) 1 Cor 6v10 – No drunkard shall inherit the Kingdom of God
- 52) 1 Cor 11v21 The Lord’s Supper is no time for drunkenness
- 53) Gal 5v21 – Drunkenness prevents men from inheriting the Kingdom of God
- 54) Eph 5v18 – Christians commanded not to be drunk with wine but to be filled with the Spirit
- 55) 1 Tim 3v3+8 – Church leaders must be ‘not given to wine’

The Bible, NOWHERE, has a GOOD word to say about FERMENTED drinks!

FERMENTATION – requires the presence of sugar, a temperature above 50 degrees, the correct consistency of the liquid, & the presence of the right quantity of gluten or yeast!

First mention of wine & drunkenness in the Bible is Gen 9v20-24 - **And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness. And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. It resulted in...**

- a) Nakedness
- b) Sexual Perversion (i.e. Sodomy!)
- c) A division in the family
- d) The cursing of a grandchild, & his offspring (v25)

Another early mention of wine in the Bible is Gen 19v30-38 - **And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters. And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth: Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father. And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. And it came to pass on the morrow, that the firstborn said unto the younger, Behold, I lay yesternight with my father: let us make him drink wine this night also; and go thou in, and lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father. And they made their father drink wine that night also: and the younger arose, and lay with him; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father. And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same is the father of the Moabites unto this day. And the younger, she also bare a son, and called his name Benammi: the same is the father of the children of Ammon unto this day. It resulted in...**

- a) Nakedness
- b) Sexual Perversion (Incest!)
- c) A destruction of God's order of the family
- d) Trouble for the people of Israel in years to come

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Proverbs 20v1
Amen.

It is absolute madness to think that for some people, their first taste of alcohol is IN A CHURCH at the 'Breaking of Bread' service – now you just think about that for a while!

Comments or criticisms? Write to me... [John Davis](#) at...

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