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All scripture references were taken from the King James Bible with permission from the Author.

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Wine or not to Wine

Growing up in an alcoholic's home, I have personally seen the devastation caused by alcohol. It reaches far and wide and causes emotional, physical, and psychological damage in its path.

For the sake of this booklet, we are going to debunk the myth that drinking a little wine every "once in a while" is perfectly acceptable to God.

First of all, let me say this, we will not deal with opinions in this booklet. Our opinion, whether pro or con, is of little value when it comes to a subject like this. We will, however, look at this topic from three angles:

1. Scripturally – God's word has the final say in any religious discussion.
2. Historically – The past will shed some light on the dangers of drinking.

3. Logically – Logic and common sense will also help us understand.

Let's attack this "Goliath" first of all from a SCRIPTURAL aspect. The King James Bible will be the only reference used in this portion.

In the Greek language, which is where the New Testament was primarily translated from, they had very limited words for the word WINE. Any juice that came from a grape was considered wine. In today's language, we have many words for the word wine.

Wine in the Bible is used very generically. Sometimes the word means grape juice and sometimes it means alcohol. The following verses will point out that WINE in the Bible means "grape juice".

- 1) **Nehemiah 13:15** – *In those days saw I in Judah some treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day: and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals.*
- 2) **Proverbs 3:10** – *So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.*
- 3) **Isaiah 16:10** – *And gladness is taken away, and joy out of the plentiful field; and in the vineyards there shall be no singing, neither shall there be shouting: the treaders shall tread out no wine in their presses; I have made their vintage shouting to cease.*

When studying the Bible, the context MUST always be considered when making an interpretation of a passage. One such passage is Genesis 9. Noah planted a vineyard and made wine. This wine had to be alcoholic because of verse 21: *And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.*

Scripture warns us of the dangers of alcoholic wine. Here are a few examples:

- 1) **Proverbs 20:1** – *Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.*
 - a. Notice the word WINE is used and it is separated from STRONG DRINK. They are two different things that lead to the same conclusion.
- 2) **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? 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.*

- a. All the signs of someone who drinks alcohol.
- 3) **Proverbs 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.*
 - 4) **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!*
 - 5) **Isaiah 28:7-8** – *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. For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.*
 - 6) **Ephesians 5:18** – *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

Here is a list of 75 references to the evils of wine and strong drink.

- 1) Genesis 9:20-26 – Noah became drunk; the result was immorality and family trouble.
- 2) Genesis 19:30-38 – Lot was so drunk he did not know what he was doing; this led to immorality
- 3) Leviticus 10:9-11 – God commanded priests not to drink so that they could tell the difference between the holy and the unholy.
- 4) Numbers 6:3 – The Nazarites were told to eat or drink nothing from the grape vine.
- 5) Deuteronomy 21:20 – A drunken son was stubborn and rebellious.
- 6) Deuteronomy 29:5-6 – God gave no grape juice to Israel nor did they have intoxicating drink in the wilderness.
- 7) Deuteronomy 32:33 – Intoxicating wine is like the poison of serpents, the cruel venom of asps.
- 8) Judges 13:4, 7, 14 – Samson was to be a Nazarite for life. His mother was told not to drink wine or strong drink.
- 9) 1 Samuel 1:14-15 – Accused, Hannah said she drank no wine.
- 10) 1 Samuel 25:32-38 – Nabal died after a drunken spree.
- 11) 2 Samuel 11:13 – By getting Uriah drunk, David hoped to cover his sin.
- 12) 2 Samuel 13:28-29 – Amnon was drunk when he was killed.
- 13) 1 Kings 16:8-10 – The king was drinking himself into drunkenness when he was assassinated.
- 14) 1 Kings 20:12-21 – Ben-Hadad and 32 other kings were drinking when they were attacked and defeated by the Israelites.

- 15) Esther 1:5-12 – The king gave each one all the drink he wanted. The king was intoxicated when he commanded the queen to come.
- 16) Psalm 75:8 – The Lord’s anger is pictured as mixed wine poured out and drunk by the wicked.
- 17) Proverbs 4:17 – Alcoholic drink is called the wine of violence.
- 18) Proverbs 20:1 – Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging.
- 19) Proverbs 23:19-20 – A wise person will not be among the drinkers of alcoholic beverages.
- 20) Proverbs 23:21 – Drunkenness causes poverty.
- 21) Proverbs 23:29-30 – Drinking causes woe, sorrow, fighting, babbling, wounds without cause and red eyes.
- 22) Proverbs 23:31 – God instructs not to look at intoxicating drinks.
- 23) Proverbs 23:32 – Alcoholic drinks bite like a serpent, sting like an adder.
- 24) Proverbs 23:33 – Alcohol causes the drinker to have strange and adulterous thoughts, produces willfulness, and prevents reformation.
- 25) Proverbs 23:34 – Alcohol makes the drinker unstable
- 26) Proverbs 23:35 – Alcohol makes the drinker insensitive to pain so he does not perceive it as a warning. Alcohol is habit forming.
- 27) Proverb 31:4-5 – Kings, Princes, and others who rule and judge must not drink alcohol. Alcohol perverts good judgment.
- 28) Proverbs 31:6-7 – Strong drink could be given to those about to perish or those in pain. Better anesthetics are available today.
- 29) Ecclesiastes 2:3 – The king tried everything, including intoxicating drink, to see if it satisfied. It did not. (Ecclesiastes 12:8)
- 30) Ecclesiastes 10:17 – A land is blessed when its leaders do not drink.
- 31) Isaiah 5:11-12 – Woe to those who get up early to drink and stay up late at night to get drunk.
- 32) Isaiah 5:22 – Woe to “champion” drinkers and “experts” at mixing drinks.
- 33) Isaiah 19:14 – Drunken men stagger in their vomit.
- 34) Isaiah 22:12-13 – The Israelites choose to drink; their future looks hopeless to them.
- 35) Isaiah 24:9 – Drinkers cannot escape the consequences when God judges.
- 36) Isaiah 28:1 – God pronounces woe on the drunkards of Ephraim.

- 37) Isaiah 28:3 – Proud drunkards shall be trodden down.
- 38) Isaiah 28:7 – Priests and prophets stagger and reel from beer and wine, err in vision, and stumble in judgment.
- 39) Isaiah 28:8 – Drinkers' tables are covered with vomit and filth.
- 40) Isaiah 56:9-12 – Drinkers seek their own gain and expect tomorrow to be just like today.
- 41) Jeremiah 35:2-14 – The Rechabites drank no grape juice or intoxicating wine and were blessed.
- 42) Ezekiel 44:21 – Again, God instructed the priests not to drink wine.
- 43) Daniel 1:5-17 – Daniel refused the king's intoxicating wine and was blessed for it along with his abstaining friends.
- 44) Daniel 5:1 – Belshazzar, ruler of Babylon; led his people in drinking.
- 45) Daniel 5:2-3 – The king, along with his nobles, wives, and concubines, drank from the goblets which had been taken from God's temple.
- 46) Daniel 5:4 – Drinking wine was combined with praising false gods.
- 47) Daniel 5:23 – God sent word to Belshazzar that punishment would be swift for the evil he had committed.
- 48) Hosea 4:11 – Intoxicating wine takes away intelligence.
- 49) Hosea 7:5 – God reproves princes for drinking.
- 50) Joel 1:5 – Drunkards awake to see God's judgment.
- 51) Joel 3:3 – The enemy is judged for selling girls for wine.
- 52) Amos 2:8 – Unrighteous acts of Israel included the drinking of wine which had been taken for the payment of fines.
- 53) Amos 2:12 – Israel is condemned for forcing Nazarites to drink wine.
- 54) Micah 2:11 – Israelites are eager to follow false teachers who prophesy plenty of intoxicating drinks.
- 55) Nahum 1:10 – The drunkards of Nineveh will be destroyed by God.
- 56) Habakkuk 2:5 – A man is betrayed by wine.
- 57) Habakkuk 2:15 – Woe to him that gives his neighbor drink.
- 58) Habakkuk 2:16 – Drinking leads to shame.
- 59) Matthew 24:48-51 – A drinking servant is unprepared for his Lord's return.

- 60) Luke 1:15 – John the Baptist drank neither grape juice nor wine.
- 61) Luke 12:45 – Christ warned against drunkenness.
- 62) Luke 21:34 – Drunkenness will cause a person not to be ready for the Lord’s return.
- 63) Romans 13:13 – Do not walk in drunkenness or immorality.
- 64) Romans 14:21 – Do not do anything that will hurt your testimony as a believer.
- 65) 1 Corinthians 5:11 – If a Christian brother is a drinker, do not associate with him.
- 66) 1 Corinthians 6:10 – Drunkards will not inherit the kingdom of God
- 67) Galatians 5:21 – Acts of the sinful nature, such as drunkenness, will prohibit a person from inheriting the kingdom of God.
- 68) Ephesians 5:18 – In contrast to being drunk with wine, the believer is to be filled with the Spirit.
- 69) 1 Thessalonians 5:6-7 – Christians are to be alert and self-controlled, belonging to the day. Drunkards belong to the night and darkness.
- 70) 1 Timothy 3:2-3 – Bishops (elders) are to be temperate, sober, and not near any wine.
- 71) 1 Timothy 3:8 – Deacons are to be worthy of respect and not drinkers.
- 72) 1 Timothy 3:11 – Deacons’ wives are to be temperate and sober.
- 73) Titus 1:7-8 – An overseer is to be disciplined.
- 74) Titus 2:2-3 – The older men and older women of the church are to be temperate and not addicted to wine.
- 75) 1 Peter 4:3-4 – The past life of drunkenness and carousing has no place in the Christian’s life.
- That pretty much sums up the Scripture side of the argument and that’s all that needs to be said. We will look at two other areas in which an argument can be made.

HISTORICALLY

Let’s look at the ancient method of fermentation and how alcoholic wine is made. A person cannot simply put a bottle of grape juice on a shelf in a climate-controlled room and let it sit and wine will be produced. Fermentation is a man-made process involving other ingredients. There are two basic ingredients needed to ferment the juice of grapes into wine: sugar and yeast. Like all fruit, sugar is found naturally in grapes, with the sugar level increasing as the grapes ripen on the vine; a process in the wine-making world called *veraison*. Ripening can take one to two months, depending on the climate. The right balance of rain and sunshine ensures good sugar levels in the grapes. When ready, the grapes are picked and crushed, leaving the juice,

known as *must*, for fermentation. <https://www.infoplease.com/features/chemistry-wine-fermentation>

Some critics, who enjoy wine, will say that there was no way to preserve grape juice in the Bible times and they HAD to ferment it to keep it viable for a long period of time. This too is false. A standard bottle of wine, outside of the refrigerator, will only last 3-5 days. Fermentation does nothing to extend the shelf life of wine. On the other hand, grape juice will last the same amount of time. The way of preserving grape juice in Bible times was to boil it down into a thick syrup and it would stay a very long time. When ready for some juice, just add water. This is similar to concentrated juice today.

BENEFITS OF GRAPE JUICE

Now let's look at the health benefits of Grape juice. The scripture in 1 Timothy 5:23 – *Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities*. We know

from the context that this is unfermented grape juice and here are the health benefits of grape

Benefits Of Grape Juice

- Maintains Cholesterol Levels
- Maintains Heart Health
- Cures Digestive & Bowel Disorders
- Boost Immunity, Delays Aging
- Prevents Cancer
- Relieves Debilitating Headaches
- Improves Metabolism
- Maintains Bone Strength
- Instant Energy Booster
- Removes Toxins



juice:

The benefits of straight grape juice far outweigh the destruction of alcohol.

Now let's look at this thing LOGICALLY

Jesus was and is our perfect example in how to live our life. He never sinned and lived a perfect life. Here are some reasons He did not make alcohol at the wedding nor did He ever drink it.

- 1) His Holy nature.
- 2) He cannot contradict Scripture.
- 3) Leviticus 10:9-11 commands priests and kings not to drink wine or strong drink.
- 4) Christ did not mock or deceive people. (Proverbs 20:1)
- 5) He did not send people to hell. (Isaiah 5:11-14)
- 6) He did not come to cast a stumbling block in front of anyone. (Romans 14:21)
- 7) He could not have gotten glory from making drunk people drunker.

SHOULD CHRISTIANS DRINK?

In closing, should Christians be able to drink, even if it's just a little? Here are some reasons why not...

- 1) Even the smallest drink can impair a person's judgment and alertness to spiritual danger. (1 Peter 5:8-9)
- 2) Christians cannot be controlled by liquor. (Eph. 5:18)
- 3) Christians are priests and cannot violate Scripture. (1 Peter 2:9, Leviticus 10:8, 11)
- 4) Christians are not to touch the unclean thing. (2 Corinthians 6:17)
- 5) Christians are to abstain from every appearance of evil. (1 Thes. 5:22)
- 6) Christians who drink would cause others to stumble. (Romans 14:21)
- 7) No person who takes a drink can ever really tell where it will lead.

So... Did Jesus drink wine?? Of course He did, but it was, without a doubt, unfermented grape juice!

There is only one way to escape alcohol and its devastating effects and that is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. He will save you if you simply ask by faith!

THE BIBLE WAY TO HEAVEN

REALIZE YOUR CONDITION

Romans 3:23, "*For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*" No one is good enough to go to Heaven on their own merit. No matter how much good we do, we still fall short.

REALIZE THE PENALTY FOR SIN

Romans 6:23, "*For the wages of sin is death...*" Just as there are wages for good, there is punishment for wrong. The penalty for sin is eternal separation from God in hell.

BELIEVE CHRIST DIED AND ROSE AGAIN FOR YOU

Romans 5:8, "*But God commendeth His love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" Christ's great love for us was shown when He died on the cross and rose again from the dead to pay our sin debt.

TRUST CHRIST ALONE AS SAVIOUR.

Romans 6:23, "*...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*"

Romans 10:13, "*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*" Everlasting life is a gift purchased by the blood of Jesus and offered freely to those who call upon Him by faith.

Let us help you with a prayer. (Realize it is not the mere words that will save you, but your faith in Jesus Christ.)

"Dear Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. Please forgive me for my sin. I now trust You as my personal Saviour. Come into my heart and save my soul from hell. Please take me to Heaven when I die. Thank You for saving me, Jesus. Amen"

Did you get saved as a result of reading the Romans Road? Please call or text me and let me know. 573-200-2653