

**Fermented Wine  
Versus  
Unfermented Wine:  
Which One Will You Drink?**

By Michael Wright



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Most people have an opinion on alcoholic beverages – either they like to partake of it (casually or habitually), **OR** they oppose it because of the addictive and destructive **CONSEQUENCES** of its consumption.

This book is not intended to be an exhaustive study, but with your careful attention, prayer, study and the Lord willing (Jms.4:13-15), we hope to clear up the **MISCONCEPTION** that “the Bible does not prohibit the consumption of alcoholic beverages”.

- “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we **PERSUADE** men;” (2Cor.5:11).

For those that are in favor of social drinking or drinking in moderation, some say,

- “Well, it’s kind of like gluttony (or over eating), as long as you consume in moderation, without getting drunk, it’s okay.”

The most popular argument usually starts with,

- “Why afterall, Jesus Himself turned **WATER** into **WINE**” (Jn.2:1-11).

One should be certain with that conviction, as the Bible says in no uncertain terms, that the drunkard shall **NOT** inherit the kingdom of Heaven. Notice the passage:

- “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” (Gal.5:19-21).

Notice the phrase “and **SUCH** like” (verse 21) – So anything closely related to drunkenness, “shall **NOT** inherit the kingdom of God”. **You can be sure, that no “work(s) of the flesh”, can be done in moderation.** Such an idea or suggestion is like trying to sin just a little bit and it just can’t be done. The self-willed person and the devil would like you to believe otherwise.

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On the surface, John 2:1-11 sounds like a pretty good argument, for Jesus turning water into wine; **BUT** was it fermented or unfermented **WINE** that Jesus turned the water into? Let's look into that question in more detail.

## **Consider Some Principles in the Old Testament Regarding Wine.**

Some claim that when the Bible mentions the word **WINE**, it is always referring to the fermented or intoxicating wine – **That claim is simply NOT true.** Notice the following passages, where **WINE** is spoken of in its UNfermented state and in a **POSITIVE** way:

- Joel 1:10 says that “The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new **WINE** is dried up...”. This passage, refers to grapes being dried up in the fields, which by implication, could not be fermented or intoxicating.
- Isaiah 16:10 says “...the treaders shall tread out, no **WINE** in their presses”. The alcoholic content of **WINE** that is being treaded out in the grape presses is **ZERO**, as juice from the grape presses is that freshly squeezed juice of the grape.
- Isaiah 65:8 says “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.” Obviously, juice in the cluster is **NOT** fermented.

So one has to recognize that sometimes the word **WINE** in the Bible, indicates wine in its UNfermented or NON-intoxicating, NON-alcoholic state; And thus one can reason or conclude, that sometimes the word **WINE** can be found to be looked upon **FAVORABLY** from the Bible.

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However, sometimes the word **WINE** is spoken of **NEGATIVELY**.

Notice the following passages:

- “**WINE** is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and **WHOSOEVER** is deceived thereby, is **NOT** wise” (Prov.20:1).
- “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” (Prov.23:31-35).

The Old Testament Bible, teaches that,

- “**WINE**” is unhealthful, poisonous and **DEFILES** a person (Read Deut.32:33; Dan.1:3-21).
- The result of “**WINE**” is **WASTEFUL** (Read Prov.23:21).
- “**WINE**” is **DEADLY** (Read again Prov.23:32).

By implication, the Wine spoken of in these previous passages is that alcoholic, intoxicating or fermented wine.

It is interesting that the prophet Habakkuk warns a person of **THREE** things in Habakkuk 2:15: “**WOE** unto him”,

- “that **GIVETH** his neighbor drink,”
- “that **PUTTEST** thy bottle to him,”
- “and **MAKEST** him drunken **ALSO**.”

By implication, **CONTRIBUTING** to drunkenness, would be just as wrong **AS** drunkenness itself.

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So far from this study, one would have to conclude that the word **WINE** is a **GENERIC** word,

- and can sometimes mean UNfermented or grape juice,
- and still other times, it can mean fermented or alcoholic.

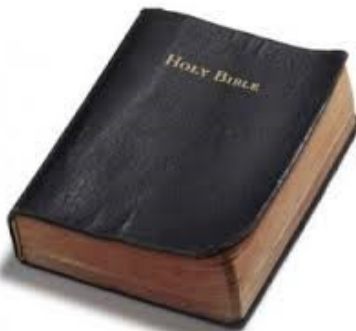
By clear implication, one must conclude that:

- **IF** the Bible context is speaking **POSITIVELY** of wine, it must be speaking of **WINE** in its UNfermented state or grape juice.
- **IF** the Bible context is speaking **NEGATIVELY** of wine, it must be speaking of **WINE** in its fermented, intoxicating or alcoholic state.

**...To believe otherwise, the Bible would contradict itself.**

**“STUDY** to shew thyself **APPROVED** unto God” (2Tim.2:15).

**“RECEIVE** the Word with all readiness of mind,  
and **SEARCH** the scriptures **DAILY**,  
whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).



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Now, with all that background, I think we are ready to draw some Biblical conclusions on the question: **Did Jesus turn water into that UNfermented WINE (or grape juice), which is referred to as a blessing (Isa.65:8)? Or Did Jesus turn water into that fermented, intoxicating or alcoholic WINE, which is referred to as a mocker, raging & unwise (Prov.20:1)?**

Please note, that while Jesus or God the Son, was in the flesh on this Earth, He was under the Old Testament law (Gal.4:4). So one would have to consider these Old Testament passages, that we have just reviewed, in considering the aforementioned question. **IF** Jesus supplied alcoholic WINE to the wedding guests at Cana, then

- He would have contributed to their “look(ing) ...upon the wine, when it is red” (Prov.23:31), opposing the wisdom of Solomon. AND Since Jesus is “greater than Soloman” (Matt.12:42), He would have known the wisdom of sobriety.

**IF** Jesus supplied alcoholic WINE to the wedding guests at Cana, then:

- He would have contributed to them being **UNWISE** (Prov.20:1);
- He would have contributed to their **DEFILEMENT** (Dan.1:3-21);
- He would have contributed to their **DRUNKENNESS** (Habakkuk 2:15).

One can easily conclude that **IF** Jesus made fermented WINE, He would have been guilty of sin, under the Old Testament Law. **BUT**, since Jesus is sinless (Heb.4:15) and the very Son of God (1Cor.1:9), it is very clear, Jesus made WINE which was **NOT** fermented – WINE that was **NOT** intoxicating.

The “good wine” from the context of John 2:1-11, had to do with the **QUALITY** of taste due to its freshness, **NOT** the degree or percentage of alcohol. The miracle of Jesus, that “manifested forth his glory”, was to bypass the time that it takes for the grape cluster to grow and ripen, so its liquid or juice can be squeezed out. The miracle was not to turn water into an intoxicating, alcoholic or fermented beverage.

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Previously we mentioned that some **COMPARE drunkenness with gluttony**. They say the christian simply has a responsibility to **DRINK in moderation**, just as they are to **EAT in moderation**.

In all of the passages that we have just mentioned, or any other Bible passages, do you recall any scriptures stating something like:

- “Don’t look upon the **FOOD**”?

Do you recall a passage that reads something like:

- “Woe unto him, that giveth his neighbor **FOOD**,
- that puttest thy **PLATE** to him”?

The clear difference, is that fermented **WINE** is just that, it is **INTOXICATING** and thus **POISONOUS**, but food is **NOT**! One thing that gluttony and drunkenness have in common is that they are both sin (Prov.23:20-21). If one were to overly consume UNfermented **WINE** or freshly squeezed GRAPE juice, they would eventually commit the sin of gluttony (which is, unrestrained, over eating), but it doesn’t work the other way around, can’t you see – one can’t get drunk by overly consuming food. And so drunkenness and over eating are **NOT parallel** in the way some suppose.

However gluttony and drunkenness are indeed parallel in another way, which some do not realize. A close study of the words **glutton** or **gluttonous** will reveal that these words have to do with riotous, rebellious and loose morals (Deut.21:20; Prov.28:7), in addition to over eating (Prov.23:20-21). The idea is being unrestrained in carnality, which includes being unrestrained in eating and drinking.

In the first century, the Jews greatly insulted our Lord Jesus, the Son of God in Matt.11:19 and Lk.7:34 – they disliked Him for teaching the publicans and sinners (Matt.9:11-13) and therefore attempted to tarnish His reputation by **FALSELY** accusing Him of riotous and morally loose living – Jesus was **NOT** a glutton, nor a drunkard (Heb.4:15)!



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Since christians today are **NOT** governed by the Old Testament (Rom.6:14-15; Gal.5:2-4), **Consider some principles in the New Testament, that condemn the consumption of alcoholic or fermented beverages.**

Contrary to popular belief, the **ATMOSPHERE** of consuming alcoholic beverages is to be **AVOIDED**, by **NOT participating** in the various **STAGES leading to and including** the excess or overflow of intoxicating or fermented wine.

Notice the context of First Peter 4:1-8,

- “Forasmuch then as **Christ** hath suffered **FOR** us, **IN** the flesh, **ARM** yourselves likewise, with the **SAME** mind: for he that hath **SUFFERED** in the flesh, hath **CEASED** from sin.” (That is, christians no longer engage in fleshly, carnal, sinful activities.) “That he **NO** longer should **LIVE** the rest of his time **IN** the flesh, **TO** the lusts of men, **BUT** to the will of God. For the time past of **OUR** life may **SUFFICE** us to have **WROUGHT** the will of the Gentiles, **WHEN** we walked, **IN** lasciviousness, lusts,

- excess of wine,
- revellings,
- banquetings,

and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run **NOT** with them, to the **SAME** excess of **RIOT**, speaking **EVIL** of you: **WHO** shall give account to him that is **READY** to judge the quick and the dead. For this **CAUSE** was the **GOSPEL** preached also to them that are” (spiritually) “dead, that they **MIGHT** be judged, according to men in the flesh, but **LIVE** according to God in the spirit. But the **END** of all things is at hand: be ye therefore **SOBER**, and watch unto prayer. And above all things have **FERVENT** charity among yourselves: for charity” (that is, love) “shall **COVER** the multitude of sins”.

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There are three words here in verse 3 that I would like to call to your attention.

A. **Excess of wine:**

- The Greek word: **oinophlugia** (Oy-nof-loog-ee') – Strong's# **3632**.

It Literally means:

- “an overflow (or surplus) of wine” [The New **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible (Thomas Nelson Publishers – 1990)].
- “to bubble up, **OVERFLOW**, drunkenness, wine-bibbing” [Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament (Hendrickson Publishers - 2007)].
- “a pouring out, overflowing” [Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Thomas Nelson Publishers – 1985)].

B. **Revellings:**

- The Greek word: **komos** – Strong's# **2970**.

It Literally means:

- “a carousal, (as if a letting loose)”; [The New **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible (Thomas Nelson Publishers – 1990)].
- “A revel, carousal; Used generally, of feasts and “**DRINKING PARTIES**” that are protracted till late at night and indulge in revelry;” [Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament (Hendrickson Publishers - 2007)].

C. **Banquetings:**

- The Greek word: **potos** – Strong's# **4224**.

It Literally means:

- “a drinking-bout or carousal” [The New **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible (Thomas Nelson Publishers – 1990)].
- “**A DRINKING**, carousing” [Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament (Hendrickson Publishers - 2007)].
- “A drinking, signifies not simply a banquet but a drinking bout, a carousal” [Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Thomas Nelson Publishers – 1985)].

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## NOTICE:

- Not only is the “excess” or “**OVERFLOW**” of wine condemned,
- but “revellings” or “**DRINKING PARTIES**” are condemned,
- and “banquetings” or “**A DRINKING**” is also condemned in 1Pet.4:3.

Avoiding “**the drinking**” is just as strongly implied upon the christian, as avoiding the “**excess (or overflow) of (intoxicating) WINE**”. Three stages of consuming the fermented, intoxicating beverage, are condemned right here, in **ONE** verse.

## What else does the New Testament have to say about the consumption of alcoholic or fermented beverages?

The context of 1Peter 4:7 concludes with,

- “be ye therefore **SOBER**, and watch unto prayer”.

I think if we look at the very opposite of drunkenness, we have to consider the word **SOBER**. Notice the following passage:

- “Therefore, let us **NOT sleep**,” (that is, let us not be spiritually dead) “as do others; **BUT** let us watch and **BE SOBER**. For they that **SLEEP** in the night; and they that be drunken are **DRUNKEN** in the night. **BUT** let us, who are of the day (that is, christians), be **SOBER**, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; And for an helmet, the **HOPE** of salvation” (1Thess.5:5-8).

Notice that metaphorically, God makes a **CONTRAST** between sober and drunkenness. Bible students know that not one Bible passage can be found, **BETWEEN** God’s way and the way of the world, as being **ACCEPTABLE** unto God. The classic text, Revelations 3:15-16:

- “I **KNOW** thy works, that thou art **NEITHER cold NOR hot**: I would thou wert cold OR hot. So then because thou art **LUKEWARM**, and **NEITHER cold NOR hot**, I will spue thee **OUT** of my mouth” (read also 1Kings 18:21; Matt.12:30; Matt.6:24; James 1:8; James 4:4; Luke 9:62).

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There is no middle ground or fence straddling. Either a person is faithful to God or they are not; either a person is sober or they are not – It is that simple!

- “Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned” (Prov.6:27)?
- That’s just another way of asking if a man can drink in moderation and not commit the sin of drunkenness. The obvious answer is NO!

One can’t be a little bit sober or a little bit drunk and be pleasing unto God. One has to be **ENTIRELY** sober, to avoid being drunk – One has to be entirely faithful, to avoid participating in sin.

Let’s look into this word “**SOBER**” or NEPHO in the Greek – Strong’s# **3525**. It means:

- “to **ABSTAIN** from wine (**KEEP sober**)” [The New **Strong’s** Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible (Thomas Nelson Publishers – 1990)]
- “to **BE sober**” [Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament (Hendrickson Publishers - 2007)]
- “signifies to be **FREE** from the **INFLUENCE** of **INTOXICANTS**” [Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Thomas Nelson Publishers – 1985)]

This word can also mean **SOBER minded**, but this word obviously has a **DUAL application**. How can one “**WATCH** unto **PRAYER**” (1Pet.4:7), if they are under the **INFLUENCE** of an alcoholic beverage? **It simply canNOT be done.**

The greek definition of this word **SOBER**, should be enough evidence to convince anyone, that God condemns **ANY consumption** of the alcoholic or fermented beverage.

**Sober** means:

- To be **FREE** from the influence of intoxicants – To **ABSTAIN** from wine,
- That leaves **ZERO** room for sipping, **ANY amount**, of **ANY alcoholic beverage**.

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In fact, to be under the influence of any substance, whether it is alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, or abusing doctor prescribed medication, is to be **CARNALLY minded**, because such is the very **OPPOSITE** of:

- “Living **SOBERLY** and righteously and godly in this present world” (Titus 2:12).
- “Be **SOBER**, be vigilant; because your **ADVERSARY** the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, **SEEKING** whom he may **DEVOUR**.” (1Pet.5:8).

Christians are to

- “hold fast that which is **GOOD**” (1Thess.5:21);
- “**ABSTAIN** from **ALL** appearance (or form) of **EVIL**” (1Thess.5:22);
- “**ABHOR** that which is **EVIL**”  
“**CLEAVE** to that which is **GOOD**” (Rom.12:9);
- “**OVERCOME** evil with **GOOD**” (Rom.12:21).

**Christians don't OVERCOME evil, with a MODERATION of evil!**

The Bible says,

- “For they that are **AFTER** the flesh, do **MIND** the things **OF** the **FLESH**; but they that are **AFTER** the Spirit, the things **OF** the **SPIRIT**. For to be **CARNALLY minded** is **DEATH**; but to be **SPIRITUALLY minded** is **LIFE** and **PEACE**. Because the **CARNAL mind** is enmity **AGAINST** God: for it is not **SUBJECT** to the law of God, **NEITHER** indeed can be” (Rom.8:5-7).
- We are “**NOT** (to) be brought **UNDER** the power of any (fleshly thing)” (1Cor.6:12).
- Those that “are **OF** the day” (christians), are to “**BE SOBER**” (1Thess.5:8);
- Being **OF** the “Father of Lights” (James 1:17), “we shine **AS lights** in this world” (Phil.2:15);
- We “**SET** ...our **AFFECTION** on things above, **NOT** on things on the earth” (Col.3:2) – not on fleshly, carnal things.

Don't ever forget, if you're not sober, but under the influence of alcohol, you are carnal. And to be “**CARNALLY minded** is **DEATH**” (Rom.8:6).

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## Consider the contrast between being filled with the Spirit and being filled with carnality or fleshly things.

In the first century, we had inspired people who were filled with the Holy Spirit. Today we have the inspired book, the Bible or that which the Holy Spirit revealed through inspired men (2Pet.1:21; Matt.10:20; Acts 2:4).

By being filled with the spirit, we simply mean:

- “Let the **WORD** of Christ dwell in you richly with all wisdom” (Col.3:16),
- Have the **MIND** of Christ (Phil.2:5),
- **WALK** as Christ walked (1Jn.2:6; 2Cor.12:18),
- Be **SPRITUALLY** minded, **NOT** carnally **MINDED** (Rom.8:6).

### Notice Ephesians 5:18:

- “and be **NOT** drunk with wine, wherein is excess; **BUT** be filled with the Spirit”

The Greek word for “excess” is **Asotia** (Strong’s #810).

- Its origin is from a compound of Strong’s #1 (the Greek letter “a”), and Strong’s #4982 (the greek word “sozo”).
- To my understanding, the greek letter “a”, when prefixed to a word, means the opposite of that word. So you have “a”, meaning “**WITHOUT**” and “sozo”, meaning “**SAVE**”, resulting in the meaning of “**UNSAVEDNESS**”.

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Notice how these scholars of the past have defined this Greek word, **Asotia**:

- A. The New **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible (Thomas Nelson Publishers – 1990), reads:
- “**UNSAVEDNESS**”; “profligacy”.
- B. **Thayer's** Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament (Hendrickson Publishers – 2007), reads:
- “of an abandoned man”; “one that cannot be saved”  
“incorrigibleness”; “an abandoned, dissolute life”;  
“profligacy”; “prodigality”.
- C. **Vine's** Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Thomas Nelson Publishers – 1985), reads:
- “prodigality”; “a wastefulness”; “profligacy”.
- D. **Webster's** New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language UNABRIDGED (Standard Reference Works Publishing Company, Inc – 1956), reads:
- Prodigality: “Extravagance in what one possess's”
  - Profligacy: “vicious course of life; abandoned conduct”
  - Incorrigibleness (incorrigibility): “The quality of being bad; Depraved beyond correction; Hopeless error in things.”

Keep in mind, that to be “**UNSAVED**” is the equivalent to being fleshly or carnal, which is the very opposite of being filled with the spirit (Rom.8:5-7).

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After considering all of the previous Bible passages and establishing those Biblical principles, in addition to defining the greek word for 'Excess' – Notice Ephesians chapter 5 and verse 18 again:

- “be **NOT** drunk with wine” (that is, have nothing to do with intoxications),
- “wherein is **EXCESS**” (that is, wherein is **UNSAVEDNESS** or carnality, which is death – Rom.8:6),
- “**BUT** be filled” (that is, cram, level up, fill to the **FULL**),
- “**WITH** the Spirit” (that is, with the Word of God Col.3:16; 1Pet.1:23,22).

**IF** one is “filled to the **FULL**” with the spirit, there won't be any room at all, for **ANY** intoxications.

- If one is **INTOXICATED** at all, it is unsavedness, it is carnality, it is **DEATH!** (Rom.8:6).
- “Let us walk honestly, **AS** in the day; **NOT** in rioting and drunkenness, **NOT** in chambering and wantonness, **NOT** in strife and envying. **BUT**, put ye **ON** the Lord Jesus Christ (Gal.3:26-27; Rom.6:3-4), and make **NOT** provision for the flesh, to **FULFIL** the lusts thereof” (Rom.13:13-14).
- “they that **ARE** Christ's have **CRUCIFIED** the flesh, **WITH** the affections and lusts” (Gal.5:24).

The Bible says,

- “**YE** are **BOUGHT** with a price: therefore **GLORIFY** God in your body, and in your spirit, which **ARE** God's” (1Cor.6:20; 1Pet.4:16; Phil.4:20; Rev.4:11).
- “we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we **GAVE** them reverence: shall we not much rather **BE IN SUBJECTION** unto the **FATHER** of spirits, and **LIVE**” (Heb.12:9)?

To “be in subjection unto the Father” implies a fully and complete subjection. Some have deceived themselves into thinking it is okay to “be in subjection” half way or in moderation. If some are not careful, they will be very surprised in the day of judgement (Matt.7:21-23).



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## Consider another principle revealed in the Word of God, The CONCEPTION of Sin.

It is a Biblical fact, that **LIFE** begins at **CONCEPTION** (Lk.1:13, 31, 39-44; Psalm 139:13-16; Isa.49:1,5; Jer.1:4-5). In like fashion, **SIN** begins or is **CONCEIVED** in the heart or mind, which is just how James through the Holy Spirit explained sin.

Notice the passage:

- “Every man **IS** tempted, **WHEN** he is drawn away of his **OWN lust** and enticed. **THEN**, when lust have **CONCEIVED**, it bringeth forth **SIN**: And **SIN**, when it is **FINISHED**, bringeth forth **DEATH**” (James 1:14-16).
- Ananias, with Sapphira his wife **CONCEIVED** in their heart to **LIE** unto God (Acts 5:1-4).
- The sin of adultery is **CONCEIVED** in the heart before the very act is even performed (Matt.5:27-28).

In like fashion, **ONE** drink of an alcoholic beverage, is **WHEN** the sin of drunkenness is **CONCEIVED**, as such a **CHOICE**, is in the **DIRECTION** of the world (or carnality) and the very **OPPOSITE** direction of God (or spirituality);

- The very **OPPOSITE** direction of **SOBRIETY** (1Thess.5:6-8),
- The very **OPPOSITE** direction of being “filled to the full”, with the **SPIRIT** (Rom.8:5-7), the Word of God (Col.3:16);
- In other words, don’t pitch your tent **TOWARD** Sodom, as Lot did (Gen.13:12).

If men had a proper attitude or fear of the Lord, they would **STOP** with the **EXCUSES** regarding this Biblical subject!

- “by the **FEAR** (that is, having a reverential attitude) of the Lord, men **DEPART** from evil” (Prov.16:6).

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The attitude of Joseph was:

- “**HOW** can I **DO** this **GREAT** wickedness, and **SIN** against my God” (Gen.39:7-9).

One’s **HEART** condition will necessarily affect one’s attitude toward the Will or Word of God, on this or any other subject.

The Bible says,

- “man looketh on the **OUTWARD** appearance, but the **LORD** looketh on the **HEART**” (1Sam.16:7).
- “as he (a man) thinketh in his **HEART**, so **IS** he” (Prov.23:7).
- “with purpose of **HEART** they (that is, christians) would **CLEAVE** unto the Lord” (Acts 11:23).

The Psalmist said,

- “My **HEART** is fixed, **O God**, my heart is **FIXED**” (Psalm57:7)!
- “Ezra had **PREPARED** his heart, to **SEEK** the law of the LORD, and to **DO** it, and to **TEACH...**” (Ezra 7:10).

In addition to 1Peter 4:3 forbidding **ALL** forms of consuming the alcoholic or fermented beverage, there are clear, precise principles in the Bible, condemning **ANY** amount, of its consumption. The consumption of fermented or intoxicating beverages in **ANY** moderation is sinful and will keep one **OUT** of the kingdom of God, as such is very clearly **OPPOSED** to the teachings of Christ (2Jn.vs.9; Gal.5:19-21).

The Bible says that some,

- “received **NOT** the love of the **TRUTH**, that they might be **SAVED**. And for this **CAUSE**, God shall send them **STRONG DELUSION**, that they should believe a **LIE**: That they **ALL** might be **DAMNED** who believed **NOT** the **TRUTH**, but had **PLEASURE** in unrighteousness” (2Thess.2:10-13).

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I suggest to you that consuming alcoholic beverages is **ONE way** of **MANY**, that some **CHOOSE** to have pleasure in **UN**righteousness and because they refuse to “receive the love of the truth” or refuse to **EXAMINE** (2Cor.13:5) or **PROVE** (1Thess.5:21) the revealed Word of God on this subject, to determine what God’s thoughts are (Isa.55:8-9), in contrast with the traditions of men (Col.2:8; Mk.7:9), God sends them a “**STRONG DELUSION**, that they should **BELIEVE** a **LIE**” or God allows such individuals to have a good conscience, that it is okay to drink alcoholic beverages, when in fact, it is **NOT**!

### **Consider a Bible passage that many turn to, for medicinal comfort:**

- “Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.” (1Tim.5:23).

After considering all of the previous Bible passages and establishing those Biblical principles, surely one can conclude that this passage is referring to **UN**fermented wine or **GRAPE juice**, **NOT** alcoholic wine!

Dr. Don Smith, retired botany professor for the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas – would sometimes teach a special session on the fermentation process of oats and barley in his Plant Biology class. He explained that the process of fermentation produces toxicity or poison, which is why one experiences the euphoria feelings after consuming alcoholic beverages – because their own body has been poisoned; hence the term intoxication!

Do you think fermentation or poison is going to help you medicinally or be good for your health? **WHY** would anyone want to place poison in their body? It is the fresh fruit of the vine or grape juice, that has the medicinal properties, not the alcohol or fermentation.

Choose carefully **WHAT** you drink – “**SAVE** yourselves from this untoward generation” (Acts 2:40).

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## Whether it is the subject of drinking alcoholic beverages or the subject of one's eternal salvation, Don't ever accept the **FALSE standards** of men.

The late Richard Fox, gospel preacher for many years in Texas, would urge and reason with others, that...

- What's good enough for mama and daddy or the closest of **FAMILY** members, is not good enough for true christians (Matt.10:37; Lk.14:26);
- One shouldn't follow after a **PREACHER**, just because he says it (Gal.1:6-9; Gal.1:10; Acts 17:11; 1Cor.4:6; Acts 5:29);
- One shouldn't follow after the **MAJORITY**, as most will miss Heaven (Matt.7:13-14; 1Pet.4:18);
- One shouldn't follow after that way which **SEEMS** right unto a man (Prov.14:12);
- And One should not follow after their own "**THINK-so's**" either (Isa.55:8-9).

If you or someone else starts off a sentence or thought with "I think it'll be alright", **STOP!** ..."you've messed up already" – as Richard Fox use to say. ☺

Pleasing God is **NOT** about what anyone **THINKS**, it's about what God thinks and we don't know **WHAT** He thinks unless we **READ** and **STUDY** His Word (2Tim.2:15; Acts 17:11), to **GAIN** Biblical knowledge (Hosea 4:6).

To be sure, we don't want to "**ADD TO**" nor "**TAKE AWAY**" or "**GO BEYOND**" what the Word of God instructs. Read and study Prov.30:6; Deut.4:2; Num.22:18; Jer.23:16; Rev.22:18-19; Jn.10:35; Matt.28:20.

- If we do, we won't have God (2Jn.9).

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**To save oneself (Acts 2:40), one must know to avoid carnal things such as drunkenness, but also one must know about the subject of salvation itself, according to Bible Truth, rather than according to the religious traditions and prejudices of men.**

Notice that the Biblical facts of salvation or redemption are contrary to what most religions of our day teach.

**A. Notice God's Responsibility in man's redemption:**

- Along with God's **Grace SAVING** us (Eph.2:8; Acts 15:11);
- God's **Mercy** also **SAVES** us (Titus 3:5);
- The **Blood of Christ SAVES** (Eph.1:7; 1Pet.1:18-20; Rev.1:5), and
- The **Gospel** of Christ **SAVES** (Rom.1:16; 1Cor.15:1-2; James 1:21).

**B. Notice Man's Responsibility in his own salvation:**

- Faith or **Belief** in Christ **SAVES** (Acts 16:31; Jn.8:24; Heb.11:6; Jn.3:16,18);
- **Repentance SAVES** (Lk.13:3; Acts 11:18; Acts 17:30),
  - Definition: A change of mind that leads to a change in action (Matt.21:28-30).
  - Examples: "Let him that stole, steal no more" (Eph.4:28); "Go and sin no more" (Jn.8:11).
- **Confession SAVES** (Matt.10:32-33; Rom.10:9-10; Acts 8:37);
- **Baptism SAVES** (1Pet.3:21; Mk.16:16; Acts 22:16);
- **Works** of God **SAVES**, as we'll be judged by them (Rev. 20:12 & 22:12; & let's not forget James 2:24);
- **Hope SAVES** (Rom.8:24);
- **Endurance SAVES** (Matt.10:22) or remaining faithful until death (Rev.2:10).

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Contrary to popular belief, most religions of men teach that all one has to do is **BELIEVE**. Such a teaching and practice misses 90% of the true facts on this particular subject, as indicated on the previous page. Or they miss it 100% when they teach that all one has to do is “accept Jesus into your heart as your personal savior” – as there is **NOT** a single Bible passage that can be found relating to this idea and false practice of salvation.

If the inspired apostle Paul did,

- **“NOT shun(ed) to **DECLARE** unto you **ALL** the counsel of God.” (Acts 20:27),**

then shouldn't we **ACCEPT ALL** the counsel of God, instead of picking and choosing what we like and don't like? The obvious answer is **YES!**

So why not,

- “be ye **DOERS** of the word, and **NOT** hearers only, **DECEIVING** your own selves” (James 1:22).
- “**PURIFY** your soul” by “**OBEYING** the Truth” (1Pet.1:22),
- “being **BORN** again” (Jn.3:5), “by the **WORD** of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (1Pet.1:23).

Being born again, has to do with a new birth.

- “**IF** any man be **IN** Christ, he is a **NEW** creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become **NEW**” (2Cor.5:17).

To be a new creature, one has to be **IN** Christ. There are only two Bible passages in the entire Word of God that tells one how to get **INTO** Christ, where all spiritual blessings exist (Eph.1:3) and if all spiritual blessings are **IN** Christ – not one of those blessings exist outside of Christ. Notice the two Bible passages:

- “For as many of you as have been baptized **INTO** Christ, have put **ON** Christ” (Gal.3:27).
- “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized **INTO** Jesus Christ, were baptized into his death” (Rom.6:3)?

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But remember, one has to **REPENT** or “Go and sin no more” (Jn.8:11), **BEFORE** one can get **INTO** Christ through water immersion or baptism (Acts 8:35-39). One cannot continue in sin and expect to maintain a relationship with God, as Isa.59:2 says:

- “Your iniquities” (that is your sins), “have **SEPARATED** between **YOU** and your **GOD**, And your sins have **HID** his face **FROM** you, that He will **NOT** hear.”

In Romans 6:17, the inspired apostle Paul acknowledged,

- “ye have **OBEYED** from the heart, that **FORM** of doctrine, which was **DELIVERED** you.”

Gospel preacher, Richard Fox would explain Romans 6:17 by asking, “What form of doctrine was he speaking of?” and answering, “A form of the Death, Burial & Resurrection” and then explaining:

- Coupled with Repentance, one **DIE’s** to sin through a watery grave of Baptism – which is a form of Christ’s **DEATH**.
- One is **BURIED** with Him, by Baptism – which is a form of Christ’s **BURIAL**.
- One is **RAISED** in newness of **LIFE** , after baptism – which is a form of Christ’s **RESURRECTION** and a form of **SALVATION** or eternal **LIFE** (Rom.6:1-9; Col.2:12-13).

Most Bible believing folks will acknowledge the significance of the shed blood of Christ. But because of religious prejudice, some will not acknowledge the significance of baptism and how the two are woven together to accomplish man’s redemption from God’s wrath in the coming judgment (Ecc.12:13-14; Rom.2:16; 2Cor.5:10-11; Heb.9:27).

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The Bible says that Jesus,

- “loved us, and **WASHED** us from our sins in His own blood,” (Rev.1:5).

Most people don't realize that the Word of God says the same thing about Baptism. The Bible says that baptism,

- “**WASH(es)** away thy sins,” (Acts 22:16).

So, the blood of Christ washes away sins, but only if we submit to His teachings (2Jn.9), including being baptized.

Jesus said,

- “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many, for the **REMISSION** of sins.” (Matt.26:28).

Most people don't realize that the Word of God says the same thing about Baptism. The Bible instructs all to,

- “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name (or authority) of Jesus Christ for the **REMISSION** of sins,” (Acts 2:38).

So, the blood of Christ was shed for the “remission of sins”, in the same way that repenting **COUPLED** with baptism is for the “remission of sins”. God did His part, by shedding His blood – man must do his part by obeying the gospel, which includes being baptized.

Some in the past have pointed out that, **IF** when biblically baptized or immersed in a watery grave, **YOU**:

- Have “remission of sins” (Acts 2:38),
- “wash away your sins” (Acts 22:16),
- “put on Christ” (Gal.3:26-27),
- Are added to, or enter the body (or church) of Christ (Acts 2:47; 1Cor.12:13; Eph.1:22-23),
- Are “save(d)” (1Pet.3:21),

**Then, WHAT is your condition withOUT Biblical baptism?**



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## Remember what our motivation and ultimate goal is.

For sure, we want to love, worship and Glorify God (Jn.14:15; Jn.4:24; 1Cor.10:31; Eph.3:21; Rom.11:36), because He first loved us (1Jn.4:19).

But also, we want to miss eternal punishment.

- “And to you who are troubled, **REST** with us, **WHEN** the Lord Jesus **SHALL** be revealed **FROM** heaven **WITH** his mighty angels, **IN** flaming fire, taking **VENGEANCE** on them that know **NOT** God, and that obey **NOT** the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: **WHO** shall be **PUNISHED** with everlasting **DESTRUCTION** from the **PRESENCE** of the Lord, and from the **GLORY** of his power” (2Thess.1:7-9).

And we want to gain Christ and the eternal benefits or blessings that come with being **IN** Christ (Eph.1:3).

- For to me, to live **IS** Christ, and to die **IS** gain. But if I **LIVE** in the flesh, **THIS** is the **FRUIT** of my labour: yet what I shall **CHOOSE** I wot not. For I am in a **STRAIT** betwixt two, having a desire to **DEPART**, and to be **WITH** Christ; which is **FAR** better: (Phil.1:21-23).

Hebrews 11:16 said of Abraham,

- “But now they desire a **BETTER** country, that is, an **HEAVENLY**:”

And 2Cor.5:1 says:

- “For we know, that **IF**, our **EARTHLY** house of this tabernacle” (our physical body), “were **DISSOLVED**” (is dead), “we have a **BUILDING** of God, an house **NOT** made with hands, **ETERNAL** in the heavens”.

So our **GOAL** is **HEAVEN**!

- Jesus is our “forerunner” **TO** Heaven (Heb.6:20).
- “Which hope we have as an **ANCHOR** of the soul, both sure and steadfast” (Heb.6:19).
- We “have fled (**TO** Christ) for **REFUGE**, to lay **HOLD** upon the hope **SET** before us” (Psalm 46:1; Heb.6:18).

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- Now, “**LOOK**(ing) unto Jesus the **AUTHOR** and **FINISHER** of our faith; who for the **JOY** that was **SET** before him, **ENDURED** the cross, **DESPISING** the shame, and is **SET** down at the **RIGHT** hand of the **THRONE** of God” (Heb.12:2).
  - So, Jesus is **NOW** in Heaven **FOR** us (Acts 7:55-56; Rom.8:34; Heb.10:12; 1Pet.3:22).

Jesus said:

- “I **GO** to **PREPARE** a place **FOR** you. And **IF** I **GO**, and **PREPARE** a place **FOR** you, I will come **AGAIN**, and **RECEIVE** you, unto myself; that where I **AM**, **THERE** ye may be **ALSO**” (Jn.14:2-3).

If we don’t want to miss Heaven, we better put away the old habits of sin (the old man), **INCLUDING** consuming alcoholic beverages and put on the new man or the new spiritual way of Jesus Christ – by obeying the gospel!

- “**PUT OFF** concerning the **FORMER** conversation, the **OLD** man, which is **CORRUPT** according to the **DECEITFUL** lusts; And be **RENEWED** in the spirit of your **MIND**; And that ye **PUT ON** (Gal.3:26-27) the **NEW** man, which after God is created **IN** righteousness and **TRUE** holiness” (Eph.4:22-24).
- “Knowing this, that our **OLD** man is **CRUCIFIED** with Him, that the **BODY** of sin might be **DESTROYED**, that henceforth we should **NOT SERVE** sin” (Rom.6:6).
- “For the **GRACE** of God that bringeth **SALVATION** hath appeared to **ALL** men, Teaching us that, **DENYING** ungodliness and **WORLDLY** lusts, we should live **SOBERLY**, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **LOOKING** for that blessed **HOPE**, and the **GLORIOUS** appearing of the **GREAT** God and our **SAVIOUR** Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:11-13).

“And now, brethren, I **COMMEND** you to God, and to the **Word** of His grace, which is able to **BUILD** you up, and to **GIVE** you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified” (Acts 20:32).

