

## INTRODUCTION

It has been good these past several weeks to consider the list of five graces or virtues that are present in our Lord Jesus Christ in perfection, and that must be observed in a man in the church before he could rightly be made a bishop, a pastor, an elder. A man must be vigilant, sober, of good behavior, hospitable, apt to teach. Remember that in the Greek, that is a list of five one-word adjectives.

As we continue from there, and move from verse 2 to verse 3, the next thing we find is three more words, each with “not” or “no” in front of it. These are three things Jesus Christ is NOT, and that a man must NOT be, in order for the church rightly to make him a pastor.

The first of these three things a man must not be: he must not be given to wine.

Today I can show you two truths from the scriptures that will help us understand and apply this doctrine, that to be made a bishop, a man must not be “given to wine.” The main purpose of this passage is to teach us how to choose men as pastors. But you will see as we go along today, that this subject also touches on how all of us use wine and other things of this world, and on how sinners can understand the good news of everlasting life in Jesus Christ as He expressed it in terms of wine.

## TEXT

1 Timothy 3:1-3 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; 3 **not given to wine**, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;

## BODY

## I. The Words Themselves

### A. Greek

1. negation *me*
2. *paroinon*
  - a) adjective
  - b) compound word
    - (1) para - beside, alongside, next to
    - (2) oinos

### B. English

1. no Englishword that renders that Greek word
2. “not given to wine”
  - a) this is a very old translation
    - (1) Wycliffe - not given much to wine
    - (2) Tyndale - not dronke
    - (3) Geneva - not given to wine
    - (4) BB - not given to overmuch wine
    - (5) KJV, NKJV - not given to wine
  - b) saying that someone is “given to” something seems to me to have become somewhat obscure in English; I know what is meant by that, but I don’t think I have heard anyone say that in a long time; I think the books where I have read that expression are from 100 years ago and more e.g. “given to bouts of depression”
3. Not a drunkard - this is a newer translation, from James Moffatt about 100 years ago; if your Bible says that, please learn to distinguish between what Paul means here and what he means by “drunkard” elsewhere
  - a) logically impossible for “drunkard” to be what Paul means

1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a **drunkard [G3183 methusos]** , or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, (10) nor thieves, nor covetous, nor **drunkards**, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. (11) And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

- b) “drunkard” is too low a standard

## II. The First Concept Is from the Pastoral Epistles: A Little Wine and Much Wine

### A. Use a little wine

1 Timothy 5:22-23 Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure. 23 No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.

1. of course you want to keep yourself pure
2. being a water-drinker is not necessary to keeping yourself pure
3. instead, you should use a little wine for your health
  - a) use G5530 *chraomai*

### B. Do not be held by much wine

1. 1 Timothy 3:8 not given to much wine
  - a) G4337 *prosecho*
  - b) lit. not held toward much wine; not devoting oneself to much wine; not giving heed to much wine
2. Titus 2:3 not given to much wine
  - a) G1402 *douloo*
  - b) lit. not enslaved by much wine; not made a servant of much wine

### C. See the contrast

1. a little wine is something you can use
2. much wine is something that uses you, that holds you, that enslaves you, that makes you its servant

### D. So to be considered blameless, to be *me paroinon*, to be “not given to wine,”

1. it is not that a man may not use a little wine, but that a man must not be devoted to much wine
2. not that a man might not make a little wine serve him, but that he must not let himself become a servant to much wine

### III. The Second Truth Is from the Old Testament Law and from

#### Proverbs: The Use of Wine By Men in Office

##### A. Study of the NT always to be done in light of the OT, and vice versa

1. basic right and wrong never changes, because the character of God never changes
2. the NT is very brief; the OT is longer
  - a) two words: *me paroinon*
  - b) Old Testament gives law, history, proverbs

##### B. Men in the office of priest

Leviticus 10:8-11 Then the LORD spoke to Aaron, saying: 9 "Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations, 10 that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean, 11 and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them by the hand of Moses."

1. a man in the office of priest must not drink wine or intoxicating drink when he goes to serve in the tabernacle or, later, the temple

##### C. Men in the office of king

Proverbs 31:4-7 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Nor for princes intoxicating drink; 5 Lest they drink and forget the law, And pervert the justice of all the afflicted. 6 Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to those who are bitter of heart. 7 Let him drink and forget his poverty, And remember his misery no more.

1. not for men in office to drink wine or intoxicating drink [to excess]
  - a) Poole, Henry, Wesley, Gill "to excess"
  - b) Gill it is lawful for kings to drink wine in a moderate manner...but...very unbecoming...to drink...to excess
2. see that men in the office of king or prince, instead of using wine and strong drink themselves, should give them to those who have severe troubles
3. I understand the concept to be this:
  - a) when a man in government office has used a little wine, he should not continue drinking until he has drunk much wine
  - b) instead, he may use a little himself, but be sure to distribute some also to those who have health problems or sorrows or other troubles, that they may be comforted by it

- D. Note the common mention of God's law
1. if an officer does not drink, he can teach God's law, to the benefit of those he is appointed over
  2. if an officer does drink, he may forget the law, to the harm of those he is appointed over
- E. In the New Testament church, a bishop or elder or pastor is neither a priest nor a king; but the work of his office is similar to each, and would be similarly hindered by the pastor being "given to wine"
1. like a priest, he is to teach the disciples to obey all things whatsoever the Lord Jesus has commanded, distinguishing between what is holy and what is unholy
    - a) a man "given to wine" must not be made a pastor, because he would be highly likely not to teach the Bible faithfully, not to teach the disciples what the Bible says it is to live holy
  2. like a king or prince, he has been given oversight of the church; he is to lead or rule or govern the church, and to do so by God's law
    - a) a man "given to wine" must not be appointed to that place over the church; he would be very likely to forget what the Bible says and rule unjustly
- F. Our Lord Jesus in the office of prophet, priest, and king
1. He came eating bread and drinking wine
  2. He never drank too much
  3. He always perfectly taught the Word of God, teaching what the God's law really means, and distinguishing perfectly between the holy and unholy, the clean and unclean
  4. He never forgets the law, and so denies justice to the afflicted
  5. He is the great giver of drink to him who is perishing
    - a) His own blood to drink for everlasting life!

## CONCLUSION

John 6:47-56 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. 50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." 52 The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?" 53 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

Roel - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Ephesians 5:18-20

Dillon - Scripture Reading - Proverbs 23:12-35

Thad - Congregational Prayer

Benediction - Galatians 6:9

Anna - Prelude (please pick)

Anna - Trinity 50 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Allison - Trinity 741 (second tune) "Teach Me the Measure of My Days"

Rita - Trinity 178 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"