

# **The Un-intoxicated Life**

WOLBI: Proverbs Hour-6

# WOLBI Proverbs Class Themes

- Hour-1: God Has Given the Guide to Wisdom in Proverbs
- Hour-2: The Best Life Possible is: Doing the Will of God for Life
- Hour-3: Don't Waste Your Life Like SOLOMON
- Hour-4: The Ultimate Sin is Pride
- Hour-5: The Second Greatest Day of Your Life
- **Hour-6: The Un-intoxicated Life**

# **Un-intoxicated Living**

Proverbs 20:1; 23:20-21, 29-35; 31:4-7

## **God's Will Revealed for My Character**

1. God Wants to Make Me Wise, Not Foolish
2. God Wants to make Me Teachable, Not Stubborn.
3. God Wants to make Me Righteous, Not Wicked.
4. God Wants to make Me Humble, Not Proud.
5. God Wants to make Me Self-controlled, Not Rash.
- 6. God Wants to make Me Forgiving, Not Vindictive.**

## **God's Will Revealed for My Character**

6. God Wants to make Me Forgiving, Not Vindictive.

**God says wise people are patient** (19:11);

**God says wise people are concerned** about peace around them (14:9);

**God says wise people forgive** those who wrong them (10:12;17:9);

**God says wise people are not vindictive** (20:22;24:29).

# **Grace-Energized Living is The Un-Intoxicated Life**

Titus 2

## GRACE ENERGIZED MEN: LIVING THE UN-INTOXICATED LIFE

God is looking to train a generation of un-intoxicated men to lead and model Christ's righteousness in an intoxicated world. God wants men who do not succumb to the intoxicating influences that dull their mind. Any desire, unrestrained by God's grace can become an intoxicating idol. Things like: sober: comfort, convenience, security, work, sports, and amusements can be as deadly and powerful as addictions to alcohol, drugs, and sex.

That is exactly where Peter was when he used the very same word Paul used in Titus 2:2 when he called for grace-energized men of temperance. We are looking at the first word used by God to describe the grace-energized older men of the faith in Titus 2:2—temperate.

Peter, writing near the end of his earthly ministry explained that we as God's people, are called to be separate in mind from those who are not God's, holy-minded in an unholy thinking world, living in each generation of Christ's Church--according to the standards of our High and only King Jesus.

# **Living the Balanced Life According to Peter**

1 Peter 1:13-2:11

## LIVING THE BALANCED LIFE ACCORDING TO PETER

To explain the grace-energized life of balance in an unbalanced world, Peter surrounds this word temperate (nephalios) with a series of commands we must heed if we love the Lord and want to be useful to Him (1 Peter 1:13-2:11).

# Grace Energizes Us to Live As Pilgrims

1 Peter 2:11

## GRACE-ENERGIZED MEN UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE PILGRIMS

Look back at that last verse we read (1 Peter 2:11). The grace-energized man never gets intoxicated by the error of the world that this world is my home and this is what I live for. Rather his life is anchored in God's promises to which he clings (as we saw last time) and his heart has an anchor stretching into Heaven (Hebrews 6:19-20) that tugs him daily toward setting his affections on things above not here on the Earth.

Peter explains for us the balanced-mind that God wants and that Paul instructs Titus to train up. Peter uses five, very targeted exhortations, in 1 Peter 1:13-16.



# Understanding We are Pilgrims

- “gird up the loins of your mind” (NKJV) or “Prepare your minds for action” (NIV).
- “be sober” (NKJV) or “Be self-controlled” (NIV)
- “rest your hope fully” (NKJV) or “Set your hope fully” (NIV).
- “not conforming yourselves to” (NKJV) or “do not conform to” (NIV).
- “be holy in all your conduct” (NKJV) or “all you do” (NIV).

This passage as it was written by Peter has 5 exhortations in the form of 2 imperative commands surrounded by three participles. The NIV renders them all as commands, and that is the direction we will go this evening. The “sober mind” or “temperate mind” that we are examining is a mind that is governed by these truths. “gird up the loins of your mind” (NKJV) or “Prepare your minds for action” (NIV). In Bible times men often wore long, flowing robes. When strenuous work or running was required they would pull up and cinch into their belt that robe to make what we would call shorts. Obedience is a conscious act of the will. Christians in conflict need a tough-minded holiness that is ready for action. The ancient practice of gathering up one’s robes when needing to move in a hurry; here, it is metaphorically applied to one’s thought process. The meaning is to pull in all the loose ends of one’s thinking, by rejecting the hindrances of the world and focusing on the future grace of God (cf. Eph. 6:14; Col. 3:2).

“be sober” (NKJV) or “Be self-controlled” (NIV) Is our word from Titus 2:2 is word from Titus 2:2 via the verb *νεφροῦ* (“be sober”) which is always used figuratively in the New Testament. This word describes a person free from every form of mental and spiritual “drunkenness” or excess; and one who resists the control of outside circumstances. God wants believers to be directed from within. As we’ve seen, this form of spiritual sober-mindedness includes the ideas of steadfastness, self-control, clarity of mind, and moral decisiveness. The sober Christian is correctly in charge of his priorities and not intoxicated with the various allurements of the world.

“The opposite of “be sober-minded” is “frenzy, madness.” It is the Greek word *mania*, which has come into our English vocabulary via psychology. If we are sober-minded, we will be intellectually sound and not off on a tangent because of some “new” interpretation of the Scriptures.

We will also face things realistically and be free from delusions. The sober-minded saint will have a purposeful life and not be drifting, and he will exercise restraint and not be impulsive. He will have “sound judgment” not only about doctrinal matters, but also about the practical affairs of life.

“rest your hope fully” (NKJV) or “Set your hope fully” (NIV). This balanced mind and holy life demands great determination. A believer’s hope is to be set completely, unwaveringly, and without reservation solely by faith upon God’s grace. Only His grace can energize an anchored mind.

“not conforming yourselves to” (NKJV) or “do not conform to” (NIV). Here we see Peter using that famous word from Romans 12:1 (*suschematidzo* “not squeezed into the mold of”) the evil desires of their past sinful lives. Rather as obedient children (lit., “children of obedience”) they were to mold their characters to God’s Word and the renewed mind’s desires implanted through the Spirit of God.

“be holy in all your conduct” (NKJV) or “all you do” (NIV). Grace-energized living brings a denial of the old life (their former ignorance), and a new walk in the Spirit that is set apart to the desires and wishes of God who gave us new birth and called us to be His own.

**What God's Word Says About:  
Christians,  
Alcohol & Addictions;  
Gray Areas,  
Sin & Sanctification;  
Liberty & Legalism**

Romans 14; Proverbs & Ephesians 5:18

WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS ABOUT: CHRISTIANS, ALCOHOL & ADDICTIONS; GRAY AREAS, SIN & SANCTIFICATION; LIBERTY & LEGALISM  
Romans 14; Proverbs & Ephesians 5:18

As believers, God offers through His Word an entire philosophy of how to please God in the realm of gray areas, questionable things, liberty, and legalism; and all in the context of drinking alcohol and any other substance that takes away our ability to think clearly. That is our opening topic at the Q&A session Sunday night, Lord willing. Whenever we seek an answer to what God says about any subject, our attitude must always be like the Bereans of Acts 17:11. They searched the Scriptures to see if what PAUL said was accurate. That is amazing. They did not just figure that if the big guy up front said something it MUST be Biblical.

# **Alcohol, God's Servants & My Convictions**

Romans 14; Proverbs & Ephesians 5:18

## ALCOHOL & GOD'S SERVANTS

First off to answer this question I must confess that I do not drink alcohol in any form, by conviction. My convictions based on God's Word are:

# Alcohol & God's Servants

First, I don't drink because **God always condemns drunkenness** (Rev. 22:15)

Second, I don't drink because **God commanded that any priest who came before Him in the Tabernacle or Temple** was not to drink (Lev. 10:9)

Third, I don't drink because **God said that those who lead His people are to not drink** (Prov. 31; 1 Tim.3)

# Alcohol & God's Servants

Fourth, I don't drink because **God led Paul to say that he would limit his freedom**, and never eat meat or drink alcohol (Rom. 14:21) if it caused any believer to veer off God's path

Fifth, I don't drink **because God contrasts alcohol with the Spirit in Ephesians 5:18**, I want to be known as a man that seeks the influence of the Holy Spirit, not alcohol.

# Alcohol & God's Servants

Sixth, I don't drink because **God said that elders have a higher standard** than deacons or others in the church (1 Tim. 3).

Finally, I don't drink because of **our whole beer drinking, bar hopping, clubbing society** that portrays alcohol almost always with things that displease God (Rom. 12:1-2).

So those are my personal convictions as a Citizen of Heaven, living here on Earth.

Alcohol is portrayed in God's Word like many other things: both positively and negatively. Like a river many things, if kept within God's boundaries they are wonderful, outside the boundaries they are destructive and damnable.

# Alcohol As Described In The Scriptures

Prov. 31:6

## ALCOHOL AS DESCRIBED IN THE SCRIPTURES

God's Word mentions drinking what we would call wine or beer 256x (199 times in a positive way, and 57 times in a negative way).



# Alcohol As Described In The Scriptures

First: Alcohol has **positive effects**

Second: Alcohol's **negative effects can lead to eternal destruction**, and anyone who surrenders to alcohol, or any other mind-altering substance (drugs, chemicals) **is part of the list of those who have become dominated by sin and not Christ and thus are slaves to sin (and not to Christ) and thus are eternally damned.**

**First: Alcohol has positive effects.** Proverbs 31:6 “give strong drink to”; I Timothy 5:23 “a little wine for stomach”. Also the joy of the harvest, new wine, wedding feast where Jesus made wine and people observed they had “saved the best” (John 2:10).

**Second: Alcohol's negative effects** can lead to eternal destruction, and anyone who surrenders to alcohol, or any other mind-altering substance (drugs, chemicals) is part of the list of those who have become dominated by sin and not Christ and thus are slaves to sin (and not to Christ) and thus are eternally damned.

Galatians 5:19-21 (NKJV) Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

# Alcohol: the strength or concentration in Biblical & Modern times

## ALCOHOL AS TO THE STRENGTH OR CONCENTRATION IN BIBLICAL & MODERN TIMES:

Wine was the most intoxicating drink known in ancient times. All the wine was light wine, i.e. not fortified with extra alcohol. Concentrated alcohol was only known in the Middle Ages when the Arabs invented distillation ("alcohol" is an Arabic word) so what is now called liquor or strong drink (i.e. whiskey, gin, vodka, etc.) and the twenty per cent fortified wines were unknown in Bible times. Beer was brewed by various methods, but its alcoholic content was light. [TWOT, (vol. 1, p. 865)].

The strength of natural wines is limited by two factors. The percentage of alcohol will be half of the percentage of the sugar in the juice. And if the alcoholic content is much above 10 or 11 percent, the yeast cells are killed and fermentation ceases. Probably ancient wines were 7-10 per cent. Drunkenness therefore was of course an ancient curse, but alcoholism was not as common or as severe as it is today. And in an agricultural age, its effects were less deadly than now. Still, even then it had its dangers and Proverbs 20:1 and 23:29-35 are emphatic in their warnings. (T.W.O.T., p. 376)

How does our alcohol today compare with wine back then? According to the Alcohol Council Information Center:

Beer has 4% alcohol; wine has 9-11% alcohol; brandy has 15-20% alcohol; and liquor has between 40-50% alcohol (80-100 proof).

"The wine that was consumed in biblical times was not what we know as wine today. It was more of a concentrated grape juice with its intoxicating properties basically removed. You cannot defend wine-drinking today on the basis of wine-drinking in Bible times because the two are totally different." (Living in the Spirit, p. 31, John MacArthur)

# There Are 4 Simple, Biblical Reasons That I do Not Drink

THERE ARE FOUR SIMPLE, BIBLICAL REASONS THAT I DO NOT DRINK

#1: GOD'S WORD ALWAYS CONDEMNS DRUNKENNESS.

Drunkenness, and ongoing enslavement to drunkenness called alcoholism, is always condemned in God's Word as a mark of pagans, lost and foolish people, and deserving of eternal destruction.

In God's Word drunkenness is associated with tragedy. Whenever the Bible talks about drunkenness it shows that it is the manifestation of depravity. Every illustration of drunkenness in the Bible meets with disaster:

- Noah became drunk and in his nakedness acted shamelessly (Gen. 9:21);
- Lot became drunk and his daughters committed incest with him (Gen. 19:30-36);
- Nabal became drunk and at a crucial time God took his life (1 Sam. 25:36-37);
- Elah became drunk and he was murdered by Zimri (1 Kings 16:9-10);
- Ben-hadad and all of his allied kings became drunk, and all were slaughtered except Ben-hadad who escaped (1 Kings 20:16-21);
- Belshazzar became drunk and had his kingdom ripped right out from under him (Dan. 5); the
- Corinthians became drunk at the Lord's table and the Lord made some of them sick and some He executed (1 Cor. 11:21-34). Drunkenness in the Bibles is always associated with terrible things – unrestrained living, immorality, dissolute behavior, and reckless, wild behavior.

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# **#2: God's Word Teaches That Drunkenness Disqualifies A Man From Spiritual Service**

#2: GOD'S WORD TEACHES THAT DRUNKENNESS DISQUALIFIES A MAN FROM SPIRITUAL SERVICE.

Remember that drunkenness is always described as a sin, and any tendencies towards that sin, are disqualifiers from spiritual services.

In the Old Testament, priests were not to drink when they were involved in any way with the worship of the Tabernacle or Temple. The lapse and severe judgment that Nadab & Abihu experienced in Leviticus 10, made a statute for priests from then on. They offered the sacrifices “under the influence”, did so “strangely” and God struck them dead.

In fact, the standard is so high for NT leaders that Paul goes so far as to note two aspects about an elder.

First in 1 Timothy 3:2-3, 8 Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate[1], self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not given to drunkenness[2], not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 8 Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain.

Then in Titus 1:7 Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness[3], not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.

# **#3: God's Word Teaches That Drunkenness Is Not A Part Of A Citizen Of Heaven While On Earth**

**#3: GOD'S WORD TEACHES THAT DRUNKENNESS IS NOT A PART OF A CITIZEN OF HEAVEN WHILE ON EARTH.**

First, God says that if someone claims to be a believer and is a drunkard, expel them from the fellowship of the Church in 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. 12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? 13 God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked man from among you.”

Second, God says that drunkenness is a sign of lostness and of a life heading to eternal destruction in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Thirdly, drunkenness (or alcoholism) is never to be a part of the life of a citizen of Heaven. in fact, in Galatians 5:19-21 we can note the very sobering words: “shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.” So is drunkenness (alcoholism) a sickness or disease, or is it a sin? It is a sin that leads to physical deterioration and dependence. But God can save and change. Galatians 5:19-21 (NKJV) Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Finally, God's Word speaks of drunkenness in a believer's life as being in the past tense in 1 Peter 4:3 For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. Conclusion from these three passages: drunkenness is a disqualifying sin and a damning lifestyle.

# **#4: Recreational Drinking with lost people, who drink to drunkenness, is not what Pleases God in our lives**

#4: RECREATIONAL DRINKING WITH LOST PEOPLE WHO DRINK TO DRUNKENNESS IS NOT WHAT PLEASES GOD IN OUR LIVES.

With 18 million Americans alcoholics or drunkards, as the Scriptures not so softly call them; and with 81% Roman Catholics and 64% Protestants not opposed to drinking. And, with the constant need to teach doctrine for us to live by, we are considering the Christian and alcohol – should drinking alcohol have a place in our lives? Here's an inspired snapshot of a drunkard; and God by inspiration describes him.

Evil company corrupts (1 Cor. 15:33).

So, God's Word in the Old Testament teaches: drunkenness is sinful, displeasing to God, and not to be a part of His servants lives; social drinking is unhealthy for our spiritual lives (frequenting bars where people go to get intoxicated, since it is a place they go to sin, and because the atmosphere is not encouraging sanctification but discouraging it: Psalm 1 says we who love the Lord are not to walk, stand, or sit in the “way of sinners”; and drinking undiluted wine is not godly as Proverbs 23:31 = straight 7=10% wine. So those are Old Testament principles that governed until the time of Christ.

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.

Proverbs 23:20-21 Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, 21 for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags.

Proverbs 23:29-35 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? 30 Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine. 31 Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly! 32 In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper. 33 Your eyes will see strange sights and your mind imagine confusing things. 34 You will be like one sleeping on the high seas, lying on top of the rigging. 35 “They hit me,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt! They beat me, but I don’t feel it! When will I wake up so I can find another drink?”

Proverbs 31:4-7 “It is not for kings, O Lemuel – not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer, lest they drink and forget what the law decrees, and deprive all the oppressed of their rights. 6 Give beer to those who are perishing, wine to those who are in anguish; 7 let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more.

# **The Un-intoxicated Life**

WOLBI: Proverbs Hour-6