

Wine - 1

Introduction

1. **This is the first lesson of a four part series on the subject of “wine” or “alcohol.”**
 - **This series of four lessons were put together from the book “Wine” by Jarrod Jacobs. Brother Jacobs has given me permission to use the information from his book to help you and others understand the truth about “Biblical Wine.”**
 - **This is the book that has just recently been published by brother Jarrod Jacobs and I highly recommend it for every Christian to have in their library.**
 - **These lessons, along with the PowerPoint charts are designed to help us as Christians, not only hear, but also see why we must practice the will of God in all aspects of our lives and that includes alcohol.**
 - A. **The question we want to answer during this study is “Does the Bible condone the “social” or “recreational” use of alcohol?”**
2. **We are encouraged by our society to drink alcohol at parties, after work, when frustrated, at meals, and on and on.**
 - A. **We are told that the consumption of alcohol provides us with “fun” and “social acceptance.”**
 - B. **We are told that alcohol is needed for “sophisticated” parties, barbeques, ball games, and everything in-between.**
 - C. **In most social circles, drinking alcohol is the “norm.”**

3. Yet, when we read the Scriptures, God says something completely different.

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And **whoever is led astray by it is not wise.**

Proverbs 23:29-35

1 Peter 4:3 For we have spent enough of **our past lifetime** in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, **drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties**, and abominable idolatries.

A. We find ourselves being faced with a choice that men have faced for since time began.

1) Do we follow the traditions of men or the doctrine of God?

Matthew 15:8-9 'these people draw near to me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. And in vain they worship me, **teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**' "

Luke 20:4 The baptism of John—was it **from heaven or from men?**"

Acts 4:18-20 So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. **For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.**"

B. If we, as Christians, are to be faithful to God, then we need to act in the manner that God wants us to act!

1 Peter 2:21-22

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

4. **The consumption of alcohol has become so integrated into society that we find Christians who justify drinking it.**
 - A. **They claim to offer “proof texts” in the Scriptures that they claim condones recreational or social drinking.**
 - B. **We are told that we can drink, as long as we promise not to get drunk!**
 - 1) **Is this what the Bible says?**
5. **In these lessons, we will examine men’s justification of drinking alcohol and see what the Bible teaches on this subject.**

Does “Wine” in the Bible Mean “Alcoholic Wine?”

1. **This question has to be answered “yes” and “no.”**
 - A. **The term “wine” is a generic term. In the Bible, wine denotes “the fruit of the grape” in all forms.**
 - 1) **Therefore, it could refer to a fermented or unfermented drink.**
 - B. **The context of the Bible passage where the word “wine” is used will give us the best insight into how God intends for this word to be used.**
2. **Reading the word “wine” in the Bible is like reading generic terms like “groceries,” “automobile,” “furniture,” or “music” in our 21st century.**
 - A. **These generic terms alone do not tell us the type, kind, or categories of the groceries, automobiles, furniture, or music in question until we understand their context.**

3. Let's examine this from the following chart:

Generic Term	Items
Groceries	bread, eggs, milk sugar, flour, salt soap, batteries, pens, paper
Automobile	manufacturer model, kind, size, color, interior
Furniture	chair, couch television, bookshelf, piano
Music	vocal, instrumental, or both rock, country, religious
Wine	fermented, unfermented

4. To know what kind of "groceries," "automobiles," "furniture," or "music" is under consideration in someone's conversation, we must listen and respect the context in which the words are used.

A. The same is true with the word "wine." Sadly, our society has made the word "wine" a specific term in conversation when God uses it in a general sense in Scripture.

1) It is no wonder that people are confused about this subject!

5. For example – the Bible speaks of "new wine" on several occasions.

(Nehemiah 10:39, 13:5; Proverbs 3:10; Isaiah 65:8; Joel 1:10; Luke 5:37-38; Acts 2:13).

A. As a rule, "new wine" would be likened to our term "grape juice." It is the juice that has just been squeezed.

6. Other examples of "wine."**A. Jesus was offered "vinegar/sour wine"****John 19:29-30****B. Isaiah speaks of "red wine."**

Isaiah 27:2 In that day sing to her, "A vineyard of red wine!"

C. The Bible speaks of "sweet wine" (Isaiah 49:26; Amos 9:13; Micah 6:15).**D. The people had "all kinds of wine"**

Nehemiah 5:18 Now that which was prepared daily was one ox and six choice sheep. Also fowl were prepared for me, and once every ten days an abundance of **all kinds of wine**.....

- 1) All of these passages have contexts which must be respected. We cannot assume that each passage is speaking of alcohol simply because we read the word "wine."**

7. Based on this, we can now understand why the word "wine" in Isaiah 65:8 does not refer to the same thing as the word "wine" in Proverbs 20:1. Wine is a generic term.

A. Therefore it is NOT contradictory that the Bible speaks about "wine" as a blessing (Genesis 27:28; Eccl 9:7) and at the same time pronounces "WOE" on others for drinking wine in Isaiah 5:11, 22 and other similar passages.

B. It is a mistake to assume that the word "wine" refers to an alcoholic drink unless the context of the passage shows us that it does.

Apples to Apples

- 1. One must ask "Are those who justify social drinking actually drinking "wine" or "strong drink?"**
- 2. A question that is often asked is "don't we make the same wine as people made in Bible days?"**
 - A. The alcoholic wine from Bible days differs from the alcoholic wine someone might buy at a store or restaurant today.**
 - 1) Those who have done extensive research on the Middle Eastern culture tell us that the alcohol produced in those days does not compare with the alcoholic drinks produced and sold in our stores and restaurants today.**
 - 2) It is estimated that the fermented wine in ancient Palestine contained not over five to eight percent alcohol.**
 - a. In our society brandy, rum, whisky, and gin contain 50% or more alcohol! Most wines today have an alcohol content of 20%.**
- 3. We are not comparing apples to apples when we refer to the wines of today with the wine of Bible times. Almost any modern-day alcoholic drink cannot be compared to the fermented wine in Bible times.**

Alcoholic Content in Most Modern-Day Wines

Wine Coolers	4-7%
Table Wine general	8-14%
White, dry	11%
White, sparkling	12%
White, sweet	12.4%
Cabernet	11-14%
Dessert Wine	14-20%
Zinfandels	17-22%
Vermouth	17-22%
Port Wine	20%

Strong Drink

1. **The Bible also talks about “strong drink.”**
 - A. **Albert Barnes suggests that the “strong drink” among the Jews was probably a drink obtained from fermented figs, dates, and the juices of the palm having the power to produce intoxication.**

2. **Let us not confuse “wine” with “strong drink.” It is obvious, based on Scripture, that God considers wine and strong drink distinct from one another.**
 - A. **When God speaks of “strong drink,” He speaks almost exclusively of an intoxicating beverage as evidenced by the following passages:**

Leviticus 10:9 "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,

1 Samuel 1:15 But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

Luke 1:15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

- 1) **In addition to these passages of scripture, we can include Numbers 6:3; Judges 13:4-7; Proverbs 31:4; Isaiah 5:11, 22; etc. It is clear that "strong drink" is condemned throughout the Bible.**
3. **God made a distinction between "wine" and "strong drink" in the Scripture. Those in Bible days could not produce what we call "hard liquor," because distillation was unknown in those days.**
 - A. **Almost every alcoholic drink for sale in restaurants or stores today (including wine) is more potent than the wine that was made in Bible days.**
 - B. **The wine men drink today does not compare with the wine of the Bible.**
 - 1) **Wine and other alcoholic drinks sold today are things the Bible condemns! Seriously, would a true Christian be in favor of partaking in something God condemns?**

Conclusion

- **This concludes the first part of our four part series on “wine.”**
- **In our next lesson we are going to examine 7 passages of Scripture that deal with the social and recreational use of alcohol.**
- **The subject of “wine” in the Bible is an important subject and needs to be discussed and preached on in the Lord’s church today.**
- **Why? Because, unfortunately many congregations have split over this issue – with more and more brethren believing that one can socially consume alcohol and still be pleasing to God.**
- **Oh how well did Isaiah prophecy:**

Isaiah 5:20 **Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!**

