

Despising the Goodness of God

David Halbrook

Man often despises the things by which God offers great blessings, such as His goodness. Consider the goodness of God by considering His words and deeds (Rom. 4:2; 11:22).

Many Americans say God is not needed to identify good because they view “good” as they do “delicious”—a matter of personal preference. Is evil like that too? Was Hitler evil or did he just have different preferences than most? Those who do what is right in their own eyes instead of learning what God calls good, despise His goodness (Prov. 12:15).

Many churches present Easter as the main “holy day” for Christians, but the first day of the week is the only day God set aside for Christians (Rev. 1:10; Acts 20:7). By placing more emphasis on a day man declares holy than the day God set aside, religious people despise the goodness of God. This may sound strange to you, but why have men created annual holy days for the church, when the apostles created none? Isn't the apostles' doctrine sufficient?

God is patiently allowing you time to learn His word and change your life. Value God's goodness--start today! Can we help? (Contact us for a free CD on this topic)

Editor's Note: This was the topic of a sermon two weeks ago. If you were present for that lesson and know of someone who would listen to a CD of it, most lessons are recorded and available to anyone who will use them. We have tracts, newspaper articles, CDs, and several people who will make time to study the Bible with you or someone you know who is interested. We will give an account to God for how we use what we have, so let's be busy treating the lost the way someone treated us when we were lost which helped lead us to Christ!

Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Novela Puckett, Noleka Hopper, Samuel Southall, others with ongoing trials, and new Christians among us.

Join us each Sunday at 10AM (classes), 10:45AM, & 5PM and Wednesday at 7PM.

Church of Christ—Quail Valley
4104 E. Harrison St.
Batesville, AR 72501
Office- (870) 793-6700

Evangelist:
David Halbrook 569-4491

The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

church of Christ--Quail Valley

February 8, 2015

WWW.QVCOC.COM

Why Should I Trust The Bible?

Larry Rouse

We live in a generation that has scoffed at the idea of any absolute standard of authority. Those who point to the Bible as containing the answers to the most crucial issues of life are pushed aside as ignorant or naive. If these thoughts are yours, please consider the following points:

1. To determine if the Bible is from God or man is an issue that can be tested and the truth known. I appeal to you to at least read the Bible with an open mind and then test what you read. This is the appeal of Jesus Christ himself (John 8:32; 7:17).
2. Take the time to consider the historical and archeological accuracy of the Bible. History tells us of many recent scholars, such as Sir William Ramsey, who because of their archeological studies of the Bible lands came to respect the Bible as one of the most accurate sources of ancient history. This tells us that the Bible is no myth but rather was written by men in the times claimed and written in a careful manner.
3. Consider the identity of Jesus Christ - who is He? The appeal of the apostles in the book of Acts is that they witnessed Jesus as one who was raised from the dead (Acts 2:32; 3:14-15; 5:30-32; 10:39-42; 13:27-31). Is this testimony valid? What was the motive of men like the Apostle Paul in making such an abrupt change from persecutor to preacher? History bears testimony that all these witnesses, save one, died a martyr's death for this truth (1 Cor 15:30-32). Did they die for a lie?
4. Finally, consider the powerful evidence of fulfilled prophecy. In the death of Christ there are several detailed accounts of His death hundreds of years before the event (Psalms 22, Isaiah 53). How can this be?

Why not begin your examination of the Bible today?

(Auburn Beacon)

Is Modern Man a Believing Man?

“At the beginning of a class on the evaluation of court testimony, a law professor presented the following challenge to his students: ‘Prove that the woman whom you accept to be your natural mother actually gave birth to you.’ The task seemed to be rather simple and within a few minutes almost all of the students had constructed an apparently valid proof. In most cases the proof rested upon three lines of evidence: 1. A birth certificate bearing an official state seal, the name of the mother and birth date, 2. the unanimous testimony of doctors, acquaintances and supposed relatives, and 3. common family traits. However, in the discussion of these proofs, the professor questioned each piece of evidence. Could not the birth certificate have been issued with errors or even falsified? Could there not be reasons why friends and relatives would desire to hide the truth about the birth and the real parents? With regard to common family traits, are there not people who look alike but who are not at all related?

Obviously none of the students had established absolute proof. Nevertheless, all remained firmly convinced that they knew their natural mother. Why? All the evidence pointed to the same conclusion. The professor wanted to demonstrate to his students that all ‘knowledge’ of historical events which they had not personally experienced was based on the belief of testimony of witnesses. When we think about it, we would be astonished at how much ‘faith’ we demonstrate in daily life. Our ‘knowledge’ of daily world events is, for the most part, faith in the statements of journalists. ‘Knowledge of history’ is, in the final analysis, nothing more than faith in the testimony of those claiming to have witnessed events in the past.

Court decisions are based upon faith in the testimony of witnesses. We readily take medicine which could even be dangerous, because we have faith in our doctor and in the information on the label of the medicine bottle. Without ‘faith’ it is impossible to live in this world! However, as soon as we approach belief in God, Jesus Christ, or the Bible, the concept of faith suddenly becomes taboo and is rejected as naïve, emotional escape from reality”

Lesson 1, page 1.; http://www.ch-of-christ.beaverton.or.us/The_Bible.htm

An All Too Common Source of Straying

Steve Wallace

Proverbs 20:1, "Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler. and whoever is led astray by it is not wise" (NKJV) .

Our proverb, like others we will note, warns of being led astray. The Hebrew word rendered "astray" also appears in texts dealing with sins committed unintentionally (Lev. 4:13; Num. 15:22,24), sins of which one is unaware (Job 6:24; 19:4). Ezekiel uses it when speaking of God's people as sheep who "wandered" off (34:6). With this we move on to the book of Proverbs.

Proverbs speaks of at least three ways that one is led astray. First, one is led astray by the allurements of a strange woman (5:20-23). A second cause is "instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge" (19:27). The third way is in the proverb that is the subject of this study. These three are similar in that all lead a person to act in a manner contrary to God's expressed will. However, each influences a person in its own way. Let us now look more closely at our proverb.

Wine and strong drink - alcoholic beverages - lead astray. They are here personified as doing themselves what they cause one who partakes of them to do. Let the reader keep in mind that the beverages mentioned in our proverb had nowhere near the potency of modern intoxicants. Modern distillation produces greater alcoholic content than the natural fermentation of ancient Palestine. With all this in mind let the words of this proverb sink in. Partaking of alcohol affects one's judgment. The gradual movement from the first serving of "wine" or "strong drink," to being "merry with wine" (Est. 1:10), to being "drunken" (Gen. 9:20,21), all involve one in being under the influence of alcohol to varying degrees in the manner expressed in our proverb. "Mocker" and "brawler" speak of the effects alcohol has on a person who drinks it. It leads one away from being in the state one was before drinking it.

This writer is not proud of the ungodly background out of which he came many years ago. With this in mind he relates an experience from those days. In early January, 1977, he quit drinking. Before he quit, drinking several cans of beer had little effect on him. Four or five months later he attended a wedding where he was persuaded to have a single can of beer as part of the merriment of the occasion. In his "dried out" state he was amazed at the effect that one can of beer had on him (FYI, a glass of wine has as much alcoholic content as does a can of beer). He has never forgotten this lesson and the truth about social drinking that it teaches. Do not kid yourself. Drinking alcohol, as it is customarily consumed in our society today, does affect one's sobriety!

Finally, we must read this proverb in its broader setting, as part of a book whose main purpose is to impart wisdom to its readers. With the final words of this proverb before us is anyone ready to argue that wine or strong drink will make one wise?

[We helped send Steve to India in January. He has safely returned home.]