

Alcohol & Drunkenness

David Halbrook

According to www.m-w.com, the word “drunk” means “having the faculties impaired by alcohol.” So when your mind is impaired by alcohol, you are drunk (intoxicated).

Some ask, “How much alcohol does it take to impair my mind?” Studies prove that after the average man or woman drinks one beer, one glass of wine, or one shot of liquor they have a Blood Alcohol Concentration of at least .02%. Being slightly drunk, they feel relaxed and may be in a slightly different mood. It is legal to drive at this point, but The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says “that driving performance degrades after just one drink.” When the mind is impaired by alcohol, that person is drunk.

Why does it matter how much alcohol it takes to be drunk? Because God said *Do not be drunk with wine* (Eph. 5:19). That forbids all levels of drunkenness (intoxication). People who makes excuses and twist passages to justify their preferred level of drunkenness prove that *Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise* (Prov. 20:1). If you are thinking “But the Bible also says...,” read next week’s article at our website today.

Editor’s Note: There will be a few articles in *Arkansas Weekly* on this subject, in part, because some people are hoping to change current law and allow more alcohol to be publicly sold locally. For people who believe the Bible, I hope these articles will convince them to oppose this suggested change. A local group (named K.I.D.S.) is opposing this change, but as a church, we are not involved or connected with them. While they do their work, we’ll do our work to spread the whole counsel of God.

Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Novela Puckett, Samuel Southall, others with ongoing trials, our brethren who are travelling, and new Christians among us.

Remember to check the lists of various assignments and work needing volunteers on the bulletin board at the back.

We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & 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

May 18, 2014

WWW.QVCOC.COM

A Secret Worth Learning

Bobby K. Thompson

“But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” (Philippians 4:10-13). Other acceptable versions render the last of verse 12: “I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.” (ESV). Contentment was the secret that Paul had learned. This is the secret which we need to learn. It is a secret that many of God’s children have failed to learn. Evidences are apparent of discontentment in the lives of many. Murmuring, anxiety and fear in the lives of individuals convey the spirit of discontentment. The answer to discontentment may be found in verses 6 and 7 of this chapter, “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

What did Paul’s secret involve? Or in what should we be content? From a negative viewpoint, we should never be content to live in sin or disobedience to God. Many appear content to follow the commandments of men and worship in false institutions rather than seek the will of God. “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” (II Corinthians 6:17-18). “But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.” (Matthew 15:13). We should never be content to live in filth, whether it be physical or spiritual filth.

Give some people a mansion and they will fail to appreciate it by not keeping it clean. Of even greater consequence, spiritual cleanliness for our souls is never considered by many people. They wallow in the filth of sin and find joy in doing so. “For the grace of 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;” (Titus 2:11-12). “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth, fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry. For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:” (Colossians 3:5-6). Paul’s view of contentment did not make him a mere fatalist! He did not sit by when the cause of Christ was at stake, and fail to defend the truth. It might be possible to confuse contentment with actual laziness and unconcern for what is right. In this same letter to the Philippians, in which Paul speaks of the secret of contentment, he also made it clear that he was ready to defend the gospel. In speaking of two classes of preachers, he said: “The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.” (Philippians 1:16-17). Contentment and satisfaction involve different principles. Paul did not permit himself to be satisfied with what he had attained. “Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect; but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:12-14). Though he was not satisfied with what he had attained, and kept pressing on for the prize, he still experienced contentment. In whatever state he was in, he did not overlook God’s will. He was independent from outside circumstances by having the peace of God which passeth all understanding.

What were some positive considerations of his contentment? He had learned to live contently in prosperity. This is not easy for it seems the more that we have, the more we want. If possessions made contentment, this nation would be the most contented people on earth. He had learned to live abased or “going without”. This involved going without youth. He knew how to gracefully grow old. Sometimes individuals are not content to let this happen. They refuse to be content with the incapability which old age brings upon them. This often creates a problem for their loved ones in caring for them. He learned to live without his physical health. We are not certain what constituted his thorn in the flesh. He asked the Lord three times to

remove it, but the Lord told him His grace was sufficient that Paul could bear it. This could have been something which affected his appearance and health. Did he murmur and complain about it? There is no indication of anxiety and fear in his bearing the situation. He had learned to be content in going without even those things which involved his physical well-being. He had also learned to be content without his freedom. He had been a great traveler, but now he was a prisoner of Rome. His imprisonment did not keep him from being content to teach the word of God to others. (Acts 28:30-31). He had learned the secret of contentment by submitting his will to obeying the will of God. He had learned to discipline himself to trust in God!

Bad News

Joe R. Price

I was searching through news pages on the Internet after being in India for almost three weeks – searching for something “noteworthy” for this column. I suppose I could have chosen one of the leading events – Unrest in the Ukraine and Russia, murder at home, political evasion... All these and more caused me to pause and think about how bad the news is these days. Or, so it seems.

But, there have been murders since Cain killed Abel. There has been political intrigue from the Pharaohs to the judges and kings of Israel to the Roman Empire to the present. National tensions are ever-present.

Christians should be interested in the news, but not consumed by it. (That is not easy for some of us; I confess to being a news junkie.) News reports on what is happening in this transient world in which we are pilgrims (Heb. 11:13-16; 1 Pet. 2:11-12). When we are more concerned about the kingdoms of men than the kingdom of God then we have lost our focus and balance (consider the principles stated in 1 Tim. 4:8 and Matt. 6:33-34). Yes, Christians are the light of the world and the salt of the earth, and we should always use our influence to impact society for righteousness. That means being concerned about what is happening around us in the world. But we remember this world is not our home.

While doing so remember to keep your focus and priority on heaven. Do not allow all the “bad news” of life prevent you from seeing and rejoicing in the joys and blessings of life given you by our Heavenly Father. Life is a gift from God that should be used to fear Him and keep His commandments above all else (Eccl. 5:18-20; 12:13). Evil is in the world, and evil people do evil things that hurt others. Still, we must meditate on things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely and of good report (Phil. 4:8). We have the “good news”! (The Spirit’s Sword – 3-9-14

www.bibleanswer.com/ssword.htm