

The Word "Wine" in the Bible

David Halbrook

Understanding the Bible requires us to understand words. Did you know that the word "wine" sometimes means a beverage that is not intoxicating and sometimes means a beverage that is intoxicating? Compare Proverbs 3:10 and 20:1. In 3:10, wine is the result of wisdom. In 20:1, wine destroys wisdom. Can you tell which is intoxicating wine?

Another way to realize this is to look at the use of wine in the Bible. Wine was a daily drink like grain/corn was a common food, even used by young children (Deut. 33:28; Lam. 2:11-12), it was given to weary travelers (2 Sam. 16:2), and available during ongoing celebrations when people will drink throughout the celebration (Jn. 2:1ff). Now think. If you use an intoxicating beverage daily, give it to your children, drink it when you are exhausted from travel, and drink it throughout a day-long party what will happen? You and your family would be constantly intoxicated and alcoholics! Clearly the word "wine" in these verses is not an intoxicating beverage.

Visit our website for more study, to read the next article, or to send us your comments or questions. We want to hear from you.

Editor's Note: We continue this series in *Arkansas Weekly* because both county and state-wide decisions related to alcohol are ongoing. If people in our county and state care what God says on the subject, then these articles can help them know. If our people do not care what God says, then our society will grow darker and darker regardless of what laws are or are not passed. Let's spread His light while we can.

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

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The Exhorter

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

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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Evil's Test of Character

Steve Wallace

Proverbs 14:16, "One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless." (ESV)

Evil is all around us and manifests itself in many ways. Therefore, all people will be tried and tempted by its allurements. Lists of sins can be helpful in identifying it (Rom. 1:20-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Pet. 4:3). Inspired records of sinful actions and their consequences are intended to inform and educate (Rom. 11:20; 1 Cor. 10:1-12; Heb. 3:7-12). All people will show themselves wise or foolish by their reaction to the presence of evil. These two contrasting reactions are described in the above proverb.

Fear of the Lord leads one to depart from evil (Prov. 16:6). Thus, fear encourages caution in the godly person. The wise are educated about the dangers of evil and foresee it (Prov. 22:3). They are apprehensive of this world, the things common to it, and are on guard (Rom. 12:2; 1 Cor. 10:12; 2 Tim. 3:1-5). They tremble at the word of God and fear of coming short of its promised blessings (Isa. 66:2; Heb. 4:1). Their reaction to evil is a decisive 'turning away' from it.

Fools' reaction to evil is pictured as being quite the opposite of the wise. They are either untrained or have forgotten the right ways they have learned (Prov. 1:7, 22; 15:5; 17:10). They do not know God's ways (Jer. 5:4). In such a state they enter each situation in life guided by nothing more than their own foolish heart and the folly which they have fed it (Prov. 28:26; 15:14). As they behold evil they may be gullible, passionate, hasty, and even bold. What is vitally important to all is what God's word reveals about their end. They fall. Their ways destroy them. They die for lack of understanding (Prov. 10:8; 1:32; 10:21).

As we contemplate the thoughtful, prudent person and the self-confident, daring, presumptive fool we must ask ourselves, What is our reaction to evil? What is our

reaction to filthy talk, whether it be from neighbors and work colleagues or professionals from the entertainment media? How do we respond to opportunities to steal or deceive? What is our response to titillation, lust, and open opportunities to fulfill the lusts of the flesh? What do we do when given the chance to drink modern intoxicants or participate in recreational drug use? The evil in this world tests the character of us all. Do we appear as wise or foolish in our reaction to it?

One Thing

Micky Galloway

*“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple” (Psalms 27:4).*

I can think of no greater goal in life than the one which David mentioned. From time to time it becomes necessary to evaluate our priorities in life. We can learn much from this statement from David.

“One thing have I desired of the Lord.” Man’s heart needs to be single, set on one thing. Divided allegiance with reference to one’s service to God is fatal. Jesus taught that a man cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24) and where one’s treasure is, there will his heart be also (Matthew 6:19-21). Not only does man’s heart need to be single, it needs to be set on spiritual things. Many are only concerned about temporal things. David had learned that the pleasures of the world are fleeting. The world and all that is in it is passing away (I John 2:15-17). Having his heart set on spiritual things, David recognized that only the Lord can fulfill this one thing. Therefore, he turns to God to find lasting satisfaction (cf. Ecclesiastes 12:13). Yet, in this, he realizes that his desire will not be fulfilled by empty yearning left alone.

“That will I seek after.” David realized that he must seek after the things which his heart desired if he ever expected to have them. Man’s energies are usually consumed in pursuing the things which his heart desires. We do what we want to do. “As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7). If a man’s life is characterized by habits such as forsaking the assembling, neglect of prayer, failure to study God’s word, his heart is not set on spiritual things (cf. Colossians 3:1-2). The things which his heart desires are the things he has time for doing. The parables of the merchant who found the goodly pearl and the man who stumbled upon a treasure which was hidden in the field illustrate that a man should be willing to part with everything he has in order to obtain the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 13:44-45). The Lord must have first place (Matthew 6:33).

“That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.” His ONE desire of the Lord and the thing after which he sought was to be able to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life. David had appreciation for the house of the Lord under the Old Covenant (Psalms 63:1-2; 26:8). David said, “I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord” (Psalms 122:1 KJV). This physical structure was the place of God’s presence, the divinely revealed place of worship and the place where God revealed His will to man. Even so should Christians appreciate, adore, and long to dwell in the house of the Lord under the New Covenant, His church (I Timothy 3:15). We should be content with the Lord’s church and have no desire to flirt with man-made denominations and innovations of men. Further, it was David’s desire to “dwell” there “all the days of my life.” He wanted the constant association with the Lord. So likewise, we should want our association with the Lord to be so close that when we are in trouble, we are not turning to a stranger for help.

“To behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.” We too must be impressed with the balance of his character. God is a God of love, yet a God of vengeance and wrath. *“Behold then the goodness and severity of God”* (Romans 11:22). God in His holiness makes provision for sinful men to draw near to Him (Hebrews 10:22). David wanted to be in the house of the Lord that he might continue to have access to the word of the Lord. Even as David wanted to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life in order that he might learn more about God’s will for his life, so also should Christians want to be in the Lord’s house, the church, the spiritual body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23) with other saints to learn the will of God in this life.

How would you finish the sentence, “One thing have I desired ...”? Would this change your priorities? (The Spirit’s Sword (XVI:48) - April 27, 2014)

“Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.” Matthew 13:22

Immorality, unbelief, and false teaching are all great dangers, but for many Christians the greatest danger they face is distraction. Like Martha in Luke 10:38-42 we can become worried and troubled (or merely caught up in) many things and forget the one thing most needed. Please take a few moments to reevaluate your life and its priorities and if they are not what they should be, then pull the thorns now.

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6:33 (John R. Gibson; www.pepperoadchurch.org/resources/articles/2013)