

Medicinal Use of Alcohol

When the topic of alcohol and the Bible arises, passages about the medicinal use of alcohol do too. Let's study them.

Paul recommended that Timothy use *a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities* (1 Tim. 5:23). Clearly, wine was a simple solution for Timothy's illnesses. Today, we do the same when we take cough medicine that contains alcohol. People who drink for pleasure but claim it is for illness will answer to God for abusing His Word.

Proverbs 31:6-7 recommends intoxicating drink for *him who is perishing and bitter of heart*. This is the same person, just as in verse 2 *my son, the son of my womb, and son of my vows* is the same person and in verse 4 *not for kings to drink wine* means the same as *nor for princes intoxicating drink*. This repetition (called "parallelism") is found throughout Proverbs. God permits the pain associated with death to be dulled by wine. Today morphine is used similarly.

Visit our website and read the longer version of this article for more discussion of these verses and the "health benefits" of alcohol. If you are not sick or dying, seeking a buzz from alcohol is sin. Send us your comments: www.QVCOC.com