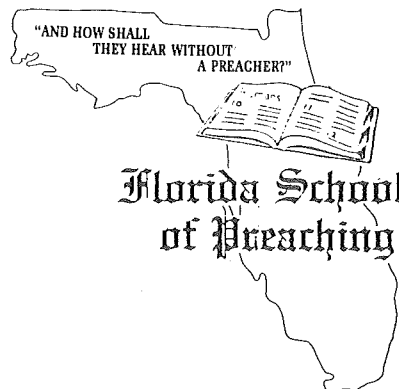


THE HARVESTERS



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THE ALCOHOL PROBLEM

By
Jackie M. Stearsman

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise (Pro. 20:1).

Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again (Pro. 23:29-35).

Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness! (Hab. 2:15).

Woe unto them that rise up

early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them! (Isa. 5:11).

Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: (Isa. 5:22).

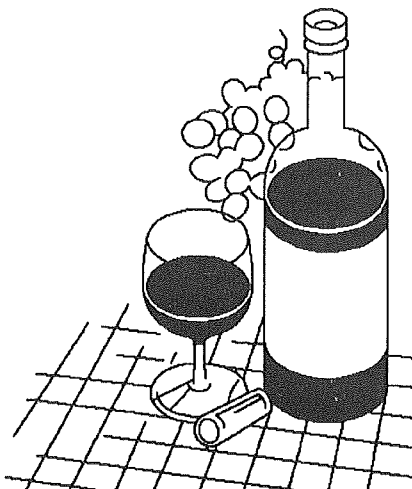
Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God (I Cor.

6:9-10).

These passages in no way exhaust the verses in the Bible that warn men of the danger and sin of alcohol consumption. Though the danger is real, and the message is clear, there are still those who will not learn and will experience the bitter woes of alcohol to their shame.

A NATIONAL EPIDEMIC

"Drunk driving is a national epidemic, what one reformer calls 'America's socially accepted form of murder.' [Emphasis added] . . . More Americans have died at the hands of drunk drivers during the past two years than were killed in Vietnam; on average, about three Americans are killed and 80 are injured by drunk drivers every hour of every day. The drunken slaughter over the past decade is a staggering one-quarter of a million Americans—the entire population of Rochester, N.Y. Safety experts say that one out of two Americans will be victimized by a drunk driver in his life-time. . . . America's tacit acceptance of



soul or the eternal nature. The flesh is to be controlled by the spiritually minded (Rom. 8:5-17; Jas. 1:12-16). The desire (appetite) for an object may be present, but the satisfaction of the appetite must be determined by the dictates of God as revealed in the Bible. (2) What is the soul? The soul as used in this verse has reference to the part of man that is composed of his higher, spiritual nature. (3) What does it mean to abstain? It means to hold back, to refrain from, etc. (4) From what are we to abstain? Peter demands that we abstain from all things that come as a result of the lust of the flesh, which would war against the soul! (5) Who will affirm that alcohol consumption is not a lust of the flesh? (6) Where is the individual who will affirm alcohol consumption does not war against the soul?

There is no way to make the issue plainer than did Peter in this passage. Alcohol consumption for nonmedicinal purposes wars against the soul! Drinking alcoholic beverages is included in the lusts of the flesh, and the faithful and wise will abstain.

THE FRUITS

In the Newsweek article from which we have quoted there is a chart prepared from the National Safety Council figures from 1980 that verifies the statement, "Drunk driving accounts for fully half of all auto fatalities—and kills far more Americans each year than other accidents" (p. 27). The chart lists the following causes of accidental deaths: Airplane crashes—1,200; Firearms—1,800; Suffocation by ingested objects—3,100; Poisons—4,300; Fire, burns—5,500; Drowning—7,000; Falls—12,000; and **Drunk driving—26,300.**

The Pinellas Comprehen-

sive Alcohol Services, Inc., in a letter August 5, 1981, to church leaders in Pinellas County, stated: "Alcohol is the number one drug choice for young people in Pinellas County. A high percentage of our children of high school, middle school and even elementary school age are drinking alcoholic beverages. Many more children are negatively affected by the drinking problems of their parents."

The alcohol problem is an epidemic that is worldwide in scope. It exists nationally and locally, and all of us are affected by it. With the potential dangers of alcohol consumption so vividly portrayed, how can anyone refuse to be concerned?

CONCLUSION

Experience has spoken in these words.

We drank for happiness, and became unhappy.

We drank for joy, and became miserable.

We drank for sociability, and became argumentative.

We drank for friendship and made enemies.

We drank for sleep and awakened without rest.

We drank for strength and felt weak.

We drank "medicinally" and acquired health problems.

We drank for relaxation and got the shakes.

We drank for bravery and became doubtful.

We drank to make conversation easier and slurred our speech.

We drank to forget and were forever haunted.

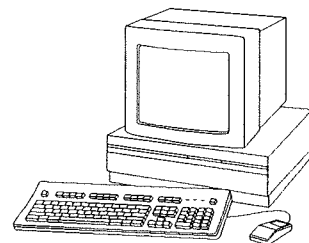
We drank for freedom and became its slaves.

We drank to erase problems and saw them multiply.

We drank to cope with life and invited death.

(Author unknown)

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Mrs. Sarah Taylor

Student's Wife Baptized

Bernadette Lafleur, the wife of full time student Dumas Lafleur, was baptized by brother Carr, November 15, 1991. Brother Carr had baptized Dumas last year. Sister Lafleur had been licensed to preach for the Church of God of Prophecy. We are rejoicing over her conversion and feel that she will be a great asset to her husband as together they serve the Lord.

Registration Schedule

Florida School of Preaching

Spring Semester 1992

Date _____ Phone _____

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Check Classes Desired

Hours	Course	Instructor	Credit
Monday ___ 8:30 to 12:00 ___ 1:00 to 4:30	Miracles & Parables Practical Work of the Church	Davis Franklin	3 3
Tuesday ___ 8:30 to 12:00 ___ 1:00 to 4:30 ___ 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.	The Cults General Epistles Topical Studies	Stearsman Stilwell Blackman	3 3 2½
Wednesday ___ 8:30 to 12:00 ___ 1:00 to 4:30	Hermeneutics-Special Romans	Stearsman Carr	3 3
Thursday ___ 8:30 to 12:00 ___ 1:00 to 4:30 ___ 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.	Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy Ephesians, Philipians, Colossians New Testament Greek	Stilwell Davidson Stearsman	3 3 2½
Friday ___ 8:30 to 12:00 ___ 1:00 to 4:30	Bible Georgraphy and Archeology Christian Evidences	Franklin Stearsman	3 3

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