

Series: The Bible for Today

Title: The Sin of Alcohol

Text: (Proverbs 23:29-35)

The most dangerous drug in America is beverage alcohol.

#1, because of its Availability in Society.

#2, because of its Acceptance by Society.

#3, because of its Affect that it has on Society
& Those affected by those who drink it.

What the Bible has to say about Beverage Alcohol?

71% of adult Americans drink?

That means only 29% are teetotalers.

From those who are 18 to 29, 78% are drinkers.

FCPS Students self Reported in 2017.

54% of 12th-graders report ever drinking alcohol.

27% of youth who have ever used alcohol report they started at age 12.

14% of 12 grades report binge drinking.

6% have driven a car after they had been drinking in the past month.

What does the Bible have to say about Beverage Alcohol?

When I'm talking about Beverage Alcohol, I'm talking about intoxicating wine, beer or whiskey.

1 thing you need to understand in the Bible that every time the Bible uses the word Wine, it does not necessarily mean that which is intoxicating.

(Proverbs 23:31) "*Look not thou upon the wine **when it is red,***"

"when it is red, when it giveth discolor in the cup, when it moveth itself aright."

That word "*moves itself aright*" means when it's fermented.

(Prov 23:31) "*Look not thou upon the wine*" actually means don't desire it, don't crave it, don't lust after it.

There are 4 words that are used in the Bible to mention drinks, wine, & strong drink

Shekar, (Shay-Kar)

The Hebrew word Shekar is translated in the Bible as ***Strong Drink***.

Shekar is the word we get our word sugar from.

"Shekar" : Hebrew, means the kind of drink which can intoxicate,

"Shekar" is condemned in the Bible.

(Prov 20:1) *“Wine is a mocker, (Shekar) strong drink is raging:*

The Bible just universally condemns this drink called Shekar, or strong drink.

There is one exception.

(Proverbs 31:6) *“Give strong drink (Shekar) unto him that is ready to perish”*

Strong drink was used as a narcotic with God's blessing, as a narcotic.

Those dying of some cancerous disease in Hospice.

Offered to Jesus when he was on the cross.

(Mark 15:23) *And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not.*

“myrrh” Greek Smoor - Nid’ - Zo = A Narcotic
Jesus refused to die being narcotized, but that's the only possible exception.

Person’s of Authority are to completely Abstain:

(Prov 31:4-5) *“It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes strong drink.”*

(Shekar)

Why? Verse 5 says, *“Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.”*

But I'm saying that the strong drink, except for uses of narcotics in cases of extremity, is universally condemned in the Bible.

Tirosh: (TEE - Roshe) translated *Wine* in the Bible, simply means grape juice.

“wine”, “a new wine” or “a wine.”

(Prov 3:10) *So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.*

(Unfermented Grape Juice)

Doesn't have to be pressed to be referred as **“Wine”**.
(Isaiah 65:8) *“As the new wine is found in the cluster.”*
Even before it's squeezed, it's call wine, in the grape, in the cluster, a cluster of grape is called **“Wine”**.

You're not going to get Intoxicated on **Tirosh**.

Every time you read the word **“Wine”** in the Bible, it is not necessarily means that which is intoxicating.

Tirosh: the ancients drank it very much as we would drink water, and yet in the Bible that's called wine.

Yayin, (YAH-yin) it's the most frequently used of the word **Wine** in the Bible.

It may mean that which is intoxicating or that which is not intoxicating, based on the context.

Here's where the confusion comes--just like we use the word "**Drink**" today. Drink is a generic term. To determine the meaning of the word drink, it all depends on the context, and it depends on what the person who uses the word means.

That which is not intoxicating Yayin is used in (Isaiah 16:10) "*Tread out no wine in their presses.*" There, the grape juice is called yayin.

But in (Prov 20:1) **Yayin** is a mocker & she is raging. There it's used as that which it is intoxicating.

So, the only way you would be able to tell is by the context-- how it is used & by who it is used in the sentence and so forth.

New Testament-- the word that's translated "**Wine**" is the word **Oinos**. (Oy' nos)
(Matt 9:17)

It may mean that which is intoxicating or it may mean that which is not intoxicating.

Did Jesus turn water into an intoxicating beverage?
Don't you think that Jesus knew the scripture
(Hab 2:15)

Jesus knew what Solomon said when he said,
(Prov 23:31-32)

He turned water into Oinos - The Fruit of the Vine.

Some believe Jesus served wine at the last supper.
Search the Bible the word **Wine** is not even used there
It's called "**The Cup**", "**The Fruit of the Vine**"
(Matt 26:27-29)

When the Lord Jesus was on the cross
(Mark 15:23) *And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not.*

Why do you think he received it not?
(Isaiah 5:22) "*Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink:*"

Later on the Bible says he did drink vinegar.

We are talking about "**Wine**", "*when it moves itself aright*", when it is fermented.

The Misery Aspect

(Prov 23:29) "*Who hath woe?*"

W-o-e, & I can just translate that as who has misery. Misery~Great unhappiness; extreme pain of body or mind.

The Sorrow Aspect

(Prov 23:29) "*Who hath sorrow?*"

Alcohol has brought unparalleled suffering.

The Contention Aspect.

(Prov 23:29) *"Who has Contention?"*

Contention means, disagreement, strife, enmity.

Strife comes from Alcohol.

Arguments come from Alcohol.

Violence comes from Alcohol.

Murder comes from Alcohol.

Time Magazine reported that one-half of all murders are alcohol related.

Eighty percent percent of all crime is alcohol involved.

The Foolishness Aspect. (Prov 23:29)

"Who hath babbling?"

What does this babbling refer to?

Have you ever listened to a drunk talk?

Wouldn't it be good if you could just video tape people and make them watch themselves later on?

Wouldn't they be ashamed of their babbling?

Shakespeare said, "What fools men are to put that in their mouths that which will steal their brains away."

Mutilation & Death Aspect.

(Prov 23:29) *"Who hath wounds without a cause?"*

200,000 Americans will die from of beverage alcohol.

We dropped bombs on Hiroshima. 80,000 died;

Nagasaki, 35,000 died.

We have the equivalent of two Hiroshimas and one Nagasaki every year in America.

Vietnam War.

"Well, we lost so many American boys."

In 9 years, we lost 57000 boys,

In the same period of time 2 million lost their lives here at home from Alcohol.

Who has wounds without cause?

This year 88,000 will die in traffic-related automobile accidents, about fifty thousand fatalities.

Because we're deceived thereby.

This week, 400 Americans will die of alcohol.

That's about as many as can fly on a 747

Suppose every week in America a 747 went down

Somebody would organize to do something about it?

The Mental Anguish Aspect.

(Prov 23:29) *"who hath redness of eyes?"*

He's talking there about weeping.

He's talking there about anguish.

(Prov 10:22) *"The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."*

The Health Aspect.

(Prov 23:31) "*Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.*"

Look in verse 32, "*At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.*"

Now, what's so bad about the serpent's bite?
It's what's in the serpent's bite, which is what?
Poison, poison.

The Immorality Aspect.

(Prov 23:33) "*Thine eyes shall behold strange women*"

What does he mean by strange women?

Does it mean she's funny looking?

(Prov 23:27) "*For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit.*"

He's talking about immorality.

God has given something called **Restraint**.
It is the alcohol that removes that Restraint.
It is the alcohol blurs the distinction between that which is right and that which is wrong

The Instability Aspect.

(Prov 23:34) "*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.*"

A drunk person can't control himself.
Rubber legs, tottering, reeling.
He can't walk straight. He can't talk straight.
He can't think straight.

The Sensitivity Aspect.

(Prov 23:35) "*They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not:*"

When referring to a drunk: "he's feeling no pain"?
"They have beaten me and I felt it not."

The Addiction Aspect. (Prov 23:35) "*when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.*" He wants to wake up, sober up, so he can drink up.

"When shall I awake, I will seek it yet again."

The National Disgrace Aspect.

(Proverbs 31:4-5) "*It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:*"

That is the national disgrace & it is a national disaster.
We're so lenient, it's a national disgrace.
That's the Sin of Alcohol.