

Sunday, December 10, 2023—Galatians 5:21 The Works Of The Flesh, Part 7 (Drunkness)

Galatians 5:21

- “Envyings, murders, drunkness, revellings”
- **Drunkness**—the word rendered “drunkness” in this verse is defined as intoxication. The word occurs three times in three verses in the New Testament.
 - Luke 21:34
 - Romans 13:13
- Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* defines “drunkness” as follows:
 - “Intoxication; inebriation; a state in which a person is overwhelmed or overpowered with spirituous liquors, so that his reason is disordered, and he reels or staggers in walking.

Drunkness renders some persons stupid, others gay, others sullen, others furious.

Disorder of the faculties resembling intoxication by liquors; inflammation; frenzy; rage.”
- The Bible has a lot to say about “drunkness.” Form of the “drunk” occur 81 times in 77 verses. Not every occurrence is related to being intoxicated. For example, Deuteronomy 32:42 states,
 - “I will make mine arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh; and that with the blood of the slain and of the captives, from the beginning of revenges upon the enemy.”
 - In this verse “drunk” is used as a figure of speech for military conquest.
- Occurrences of form of “drunk” related to intoxication occur in the following places.
 - Genesis 9:20-23—people disagree about what exactly is going on here with Noah. It is clear though that Noah’s drunkness left him in a compromised position that his sons witnessed.
 - Job 12:25
 - Psalm 107:27
 - Proverbs 23:21
 - Proverbs 26:9
 - Isaiah 24:20—picture of God’s judgment upon the earth.
 - Acts 2:15
 - I Corinthians 5:11

- I Corinthians 6:10
- Ephesians 5:18
- I Thessalonians 5:7
- Revelation 17:2, 6
- The following is a sampling of Biblical statements regarding alcohol that do not explicitly use forms of the word “drunk.”
 - Genesis 19:30-38—Lot was so drunk he did not know what he was doing; this led to immorality.
 - Leviticus 10:9-11—God commanded priests not to drink so that they could tell the difference between the holy and the unholy.
 - Deuteronomy 29:5-6—God gave no grape juice to Israel, nor did they have intoxicating drink in the wilderness.
 - Deuteronomy 32:33—Intoxicating wine is like the poison of serpents, the cruel venom of asps.
 - Judges 13:4, 7, 14—Samson was to be a Nazarite for life. His mother was told not to drink wine or strong drink.
 - 1 Samuel 25:32-38—Nabal died after a drunken spree.
 - 2 Samuel 11:13—By getting Uriah drunk, David hoped to cover his sin.
 - 1 Kings 16:8-10—The king was drinking himself into drunkenness when he was assassinated.
 - Proverbs 4:17 – Alcoholic drink is called the wine of violence.
 - Proverbs 20:1 – Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging.
 - Proverbs 23:19-20 – A wise person will not be among the drinkers of alcoholic beverages.
 - Proverbs 23:21 – Drunkenness causes poverty.
 - Proverbs 23:29-30 – Drinking causes woe, sorrow, fighting, babbling, wounds without cause and red eyes.
 - Proverbs 23:31 – God instructs not to look at intoxicating drinks.
 - Proverbs 23:32 – Alcoholic drinks bite like a serpent, sting like an adder.

- Proverbs 23:33 – Alcohol causes the drinker to have strange and adulterous thoughts, produces willfulness, and prevents reformation.
- Proverbs 23:34 – Alcohol makes the drinker unstable.
- Proverb 31:4-5 – Kings, Princes, and others who rule and judge must not drink alcohol. Alcohol perverts good judgment.
- Proverbs 31:6-7 – Strong drink could be given to those about to perish or those in pain. Better anesthetics are available today.
- Proverbs 23:35 – Alcohol makes the drinker insensitive to pain so he does not perceive it as a warning. Alcohol is habit forming.
- Daniel 5:4—Drinking wine was combined with praising false gods. ([75 Scripture Warnings Against Drinking of Alcohol](#))
- There are also statements in the Bible that seem to allow if not recommend the consumption of wine in certain circumstances.
 - Ecclesiastes 5:18—“Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion.”
 - Ecclesiastes 8:15—“Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labor the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun.”
 - Ecclesiastes 9:7—“Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.”
 - John 2:1-12—Jesus first miracle was the turning of water in wine.
 - 1 Timothy 5:23—“Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.”
- Ephesians 5:18—the Bible is not against the consumption of wine/alcohol period, but it is clearly against drunkenness and intoxication. A believer should always be in control of their faculties.
 - I Thessalonians 4:4
- The leadership of the local church are not to be drunkards.
 - I Timothy 3:3, 8
 - Titus 1:7-8
 - Titus 2:1-3—drunkenness does not become sound doctrine.

- Galatians 5:21—if you need alcohol to cope with life that is the work of the flesh because you are not looking to Christ for sufficiency to get all your needs met.
- Alcohol is a liar. It will control you and run, ruin, and control your life. It will cause you to engage in more grievous sins.