Fear the Lord and Live Wisely: A Study of Proverbs – Part 52

Selected Proverbs

The Christian and Alcohol

* Introduction
  + In the Bible, wine was seen as a sign of God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and could be enjoyed as such (Gen. 27:28, Deut. 7:13, Amos 9:14)
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_ was used at the Last Supper (Matt. 26:29) and when the church celebrated communion (1 Cor. 11:21). Grape juice was not used.
* Recognize the alcohol in the Bible was very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than alcohol today
  + Biblical wine was usually \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with 3 to 4 parts water
  + Biblical wine was used to treat water such that it was safe to drink
  + Biblical wine was used \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Prov. 31:6-7, 1 Tim 5:23)
  + “Strong drink” (sometimes trans: “beer” in NIV) was an intoxicating drink made from barley or fruit and is only referenced positively in Scripture once (Deut. 14:26, the other 17 references are warnings)
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of alcohol was not practiced until the 9th century AD (there was no “hard” liquor until then)
  + Wine was consumed in the Bible on special occasions (OT feasts, weddings, etc)
  + Jesus and the disciples consumed wine on occasion (Matt. 26:29)
* Heed the warnings about the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of alcohol
  + Proverbs 23:20-21, 20:1, 31:4-5
  + It leads to:
    - slow thinking (Prov. 31:4-5, Is. 28:7, Hos. 4:11)
    - stupor (Jer. 25:27, 51:39)
    - sickness (Is. 19:14, 28:7-8, Jer. 48:26)
    - staggering (Job 12:25, Is. 28:7-8, 29:9)
    - arrogance (Hab. 2:5)
    - forgetfulness (Prov. 31:6-7)
    - confusion (Prov. 23:31, 33)
    - sleepiness (Gen. 9:20-24, 19:33)
    - sexual perversion (Esther 1:10)
    - poverty (Prov. 23:20-21)
  + The 3 biblical references to those whose hearts are “merry with wine” are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2 Sam. 13:28, Esther 1:10, Ecc. 10:19)
* Don’t get drunk
  + Drunkenness in the Bible means any \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ due to alcohol. It does not mean “legally” drunk or intoxicated
  + Ephesians 5:18, Galatians 5:19-21
  + Drunkenness in the Old Testament was punishable by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Deut. 21:20-21)
* Be wise about alcohol
  + Follow the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 13:1ff).
  + Don’t be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ drunk people, especially professing believers (Prov. 23:20-21, 1 Cor. 5:11, Eph. 5:11-12)
  + You have freedom but you must use it for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ uses. You must not be “mastered” by alcohol (1 Cor. 6:12). You’re sinning if you need it or are controlled by it
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ must not be addicted to alcohol (1 Tim. 3:3, Titus 1:7)
  + You must think about “guilt by association.” A believer is called to live “above \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (Phil 2:15) and to avoid “every form of evil”(1 Thes. 5:22). Don’t participate in evil (Eph. 5:11-12)
* You must never use your freedom to cause another to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Christians do not have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ freedom. It is sinful to drink alcohol in a way that causes another person to sin (Rom. 14:21-23)
  + You must think about:
    - Where you drink
    - When you drink
    - Who is around when you drink
    - Who knows that you drink
* Remember that you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (motive) is an important issue
  + Proverbs 4:23
  + Why do you want to drink?
  + A believer must be able to “drink… to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God” (1 Cor 10:31)
  + What are godly motives?
  + What are sinful motives?
* Avoid \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Walk in faith and love
  + The Bible does not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all consumption of alcohol. Believers that teach that any alcohol consumption is sinful are going *beyond* Scripture (Col. 2:16, 1 Tim. 4:1-5)
  + At the same time, believers do not have a *right* to drink alcohol. A believer may drink *only* if he can do so in faith, glorifying God, with the right motive, in very limited quantity, without experiencing any form of impairment, in self-control, and without causing another believer to stumble. When in doubt, love of neighbor always means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_