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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_