

# 79 Bible References on Drinking Wine/Alcohol

**Should Christians really totally abstain from alcoholic beverages?**

**Or does God tell us we can drink moderately?**

In the 1800's and early 1900's the church in America took a bold stand for total abstinence. People read research about the word "wine;" Bible studies showed the truth about alcohol. The result was Prohibition with its great benefits. But the prohibition amendment was repealed, and the church began to weaken its conviction against alcohol. Today some pastors say, "What's wrong with a six pack? Why get hung up on a little wine at a wedding?"

The Bible is the same "yesterday, today, and forever." What godly Bible teachers said in the past is true today. Dr. Robert Teachout, A Semitic scholar who, in 1979, wrote his doctorate on *The Use of Wine in the Old Testament*, stated, "**Alcohol is never approved by God in any amount for the obedient Christian.**"

Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, author of *Wine in the Bible*, 1989, says, Drinking Alcohol is...**a moral issue. It is...a transgression of God's law.**"

## **FACTS TO KNOW**

- 1) The Bible does teach total abstinence from alcohol. Both the main Hebrew word for wine and the Greek word for wine can mean either fermented grape juice or intoxicating wine. The English word wine originally had two meanings also - unfermented juice or alcoholic drink.
- 2) In the Bible, verses to show God approves of wine are speaking about unfermented juice. Verses that expose the evils of wine are speaking about intoxicating wine.
- 3) The Bible says alcoholic drink is evil. It is not just the amount one drinks that makes drinking a sin. God condemns the drink itself. (Prov 20:1 KJV) Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.
- 4) God does not lead us into evil; He delivers us from it. He does not teach us to practice evil in moderation. Jesus did not make, use, approve, commend, or tell us to use intoxicating wine.
- 5) God made man to have fellowship with Him. Alcohol goes directly to the brain, the communication center of the body. It interferes with God's purpose for mankind.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 (CEV) Honor God with Your Body - "Some of you say, "We can do anything we want to." But I tell you that not everything is good for us. So I refuse to let anything have power over me. You also say, "Food is meant for our bodies, and our bodies are meant for food." But I tell you that God will destroy them both. We are not supposed to do indecent things with our bodies. We are to use them for the Lord, who is in charge of our bodies."

## 79 WARNINGS

There is more Scripture condemning the use of alcoholic beverages than will be found on the subjects of lying, adultery, swearing, cheating, hypocrisy, pride, or even blasphemy.

- 1) **Genesis 9:20-26** - Noah became drunk; the result was immorality and family trouble.
- 2) **Genesis 19:30-38** - Lot was so drunk he did not know what he was doing; this led to immorality
- 3) **Leviticus 10:9-11** - God commanded **priests\*** not to drink so that they could tell the difference between the holy and the unholy.
- 4) **Numbers 6:3** - The **Nazarites\*** were told to eat or drink nothing from the grape vine.
- 5) **Deuteronomy 21:20** - A drunken son was stubborn and rebellious.
- 6) **Deuteronomy 29:5-6** - God gave no grape juice to Israel nor did they have intoxicating drink in the wilderness.
- 7) **Deuteronomy 32:33** - Intoxicating wine is like the poison of serpents, the cruel venom of asps.
- 8) **Judges 13:4, 7, 14** - Samson was to be a Nazarite for life. His mother was told not to drink wine or strong drink.
- 9) **1 Samuel 1:14-15** - Accused, Hannah said she drank no wine.
- 10) **1 Samuel 25:32-38** - Nabal died after a drunken spree.
- 11) **2 Samuel 11:13** - By getting Uriah drunk, David hoped to cover his sin.
- 12) **2 Samuel 13:28-29** - Amnon was drunk when he was killed.
- 13) **1 Kings 16:8-10** - The king was drinking himself into drunkenness when he was assassinated
- 14) **1 Kings 20:12-21** - Ben-Hadad and 32 other kings were drinking when they were attacked and defeated by the Israelites.
- 15) **Esther 1:5-12** - The king gave each one all the drink he wanted. The king was intoxicated when he commanded the queen to come.
- 16) **Psalms 75:8** - The Lord's anger is pictured as mixed wine poured out and drunk by the wicked.
- 17) **Proverbs 4:17** - Alcoholic drink is called the wine of violence.

- 18) **Proverbs 20:1** - Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging.
- 19) **Proverbs 23:19-20** - A wise person will not be among the drinkers of alcoholic beverages.
- 20) **Proverbs 23:21** - Drunkenness causes poverty.
- 21) **Proverbs 23:29-30** - Drinking causes woe, sorrow, fighting, babbling, wounds without cause and red eyes.
- 22) **Proverbs 23:31** - God instructs not to look at intoxicating drinks.
- 23) **Proverbs 23:32** - Alcoholic drinks bite like a serpent, sting like an adder.
- 24) **Proverbs 23:33** - Alcohol causes the drinker to have strange and adulterous thoughts, produces willfulness, and prevents reformation.
- 25) **Proverbs 23:34** - Alcohol makes the drinker unstable
- 26) **Proverbs 23:35** - Alcohol makes the drinker insensitive to pain so he does not perceive it as a warning. Alcohol is habit forming.
- 27) **Proverb 31:4-5** – **Kings\***, Princes, and others who rule and judge must not drink alcohol. Alcohol perverts good judgment.
- 28) **Proverbs 31:6-7** - Strong drink could be given to those about to perish or those in pain. Better anesthetics are available today.
- 29) **Ecclesiastes 2:3** - The king tried everything, including intoxicating drink, to see if it satisfied. It did not. (Ecclesiastes 12:8)
- 30) **Ecclesiastes 10:17** - A land is blessed when its leaders do not drink.
- 31) **Isaiah 5:11-12** - Woe to those who get up early to drink and stay up late at night to get drunk.
- 32) **Isaiah 5:22** - Woe to "champion" drinkers and "experts" at mixing drinks.
- 33) **Isaiah 19:14** - Drunken men stagger in their vomit.
- 34) **Isaiah 22:12-13** - The Israelites choose to drink; their future looks hopeless to them.
- 35) **Isaiah 24:9** - Drinkers cannot escape the consequences when God judges.
- 36) **Isaiah 28:1** - God pronounces woe on the drunkards of Ephraim.
- 37) **Isaiah 28:3** - Proud drunkards shall be trodden down.

- 38) **Isaiah 28:7** - Priests and prophets stagger and reel from beer and wine, err in vision, and stumble in judgment.
- 39) **Isaiah 28:8** - Drinkers' tables are covered with vomit and filth.
- 40) **Isaiah 56:9-12** - Drinkers seek their own gain and expect tomorrow to be just like today.
- 41) **Jeremiah 35:2-14** - The Rechabites drank no grape juice or intoxicating wine and were blessed.
- 42) **Ezekiel 44:21** - Again God instructed the priests not to drink wine.
- 43) **Daniel 1:5-17** - Daniel refused the king's intoxicating wine and was blessed for it along with his abstaining friends.
- 44) **Daniel 5:1** - Belshazzar, ruler of Babylon; led his people in drinking.
- 45) **Daniel 5:2-3** - The king, along with his nobles, wives, and concubines, drank from the goblets which had been taken from God's temple.
- 46) **Daniel 5:4** - Drinking wine was combined with praising false gods.
- 47) **Daniel 5:23** - God sent word to Belshazzar that punishment would be swift for the evil he had committed.
- 48) **Hosea 4:11** - Intoxicating wine takes away intelligence.
- 49) **Hosea 7:5** - God reproves princes for drinking.
- 50) **Joel 1:5** - Drunkards awake to see God's judgment.
- 51) **Joel 3:3** - The enemy is judged for selling girls for wine.
- 52) **Amos 2:8** - Unrighteous acts of Israel included the drinking of wine which had been taken for the payment of fines.
- 53) **Amos 2:12** - Israel is condemned for forcing Nazarites to drink wine.
- 54) **Micah 2:11** - Israelites are eager to follow false teachers who prophesy plenty of intoxicating drinks.
- 55) **Nahum 1:10** - The drunkards of Nineveh will be destroyed by God.
- 56) **Habakkuk 2:5** - A man is betrayed by wine.
- 57) **Habakkuk 2:15** - Woe to him that gives his neighbor drink.

- 58) **Habakkuk 2:16** - Drinking leads to shame.
- 59) **Matthew 24:48-51** - A drinking servant is unprepared for his Lord's return.
- 60) **Luke 1:15** - John the Baptist drank neither grape juice nor wine.
- 61) **Luke 12:45** - Christ warned against drunkenness.
- 62) **Luke 21:34** - Drunkenness will cause a person not to be ready for the Lord's return.
- 63) **Romans 13:13** - Do not walk in drunkenness or immorality.
- 64) **Romans 14:21** - Do not do anything that will hurt your testimony as a believer.
- 65) **1 Corinthians 5:11** - If a Christian brother is a drinker, do not associate with him.
- 66) **1 Corinthians 6:10** - Drunkards will not inherit the kingdom of God
- 67) **Galatians 5:21** - Acts of the sinful nature, such as drunkenness, will prohibit a person from inheriting the kingdom of God.
- 68) **Ephesians 5:18** - In contrast to being drunk with wine, the believer is to be filled with the Spirit.
- 69) **1 Thessalonians 5:6-7** - Christians are to be alert and self-controlled, belonging to the day. Drunkards belong to the night and darkness.
- 70) **1 Timothy 3:2-3** - Bishops (elders) are to be temperate, sober, and not near any wine.
- 71) **1 Timothy 3:8** - Deacons are to be worthy of respect and not drinkers.
- 72) **1 Timothy 3:11** - Deacons' wives are to be temperate and sober.
- 73) **Titus 1:7-8** - An overseer is to be disciplined.
- 74) **Titus 2:2-3** - The older men and older women of the church are to be temperate and not addicted to wine.
- 75) **1 Peter 4:3-4** - The past life of drunkenness and carousing has no place in the Christian's life.
- 77) **2Tim 4:5** ButG1161 watchG3525 thouG4771 inG1722 all things,G3956 endure afflictions,G2553 doG4160 the workG2041 of an evangelist,G2099 make full proofG4135 of thyG4675 ministry.G1248

The Word WatchG3525 (Strong's) Νήφω nēphō *nay'-fo* Of uncertain affinity; to **abstain from wine** (*keep sober*), that is be sober, watch.

78.) **Acts 2:15** – Not drunk as you suppose, this is that spoken by the prophet Joel

79.) **Isaiah 29: 9** (AMP) Stop and wonder [*at this prophecy, if you choose, whether you understand it or not; soon you will witness the actual event*] and be confounded [*reluctantly*]! Blind yourselves [*now, if you choose; take your pleasure*] and then be blinded [*at the actual occurrence*]. They are drunk, but not from wine; they stagger, but not from strong drink [*but from spiritual stupor*]. For the Lord has poured out on you the spirit of deep sleep.

### **Final Note: In the N.T. scriptures:**

**Rev 1:6** And hath made us **kings\*** and **priests\*** unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

**Levites:** Two primary divisions, those that were priest and those that were tabernacle/temple servants, who served with the priests in God's house. In the N.T. Christians who choose to serve in God's house are "Levites", they are in the ministry of service according to Acts chapter 6 and help the Pastors take care of Gods' house.

**Nazarites\*:** A person who wished to make a vow to dedicated themselves to God, or one called by God, dedicated from their birth. In the N.T. we are sanctified and consecrated, separated and set-apart for God from salvation, by the blood and by the truth.

There were 4 kinds of individuals in the O.T. that were specifically forbidden to touch drink. The King, Priest, Levite, Nazarite. Jesus calls us all 4 in the N.T.!

Jesus was a Jew, Israelite, Nazarite, Levite, King and Priest, he was forbidden to look at or even touch strong drink, He therefore would not be able to turn water into an "intoxicating wine" as we know wine today, he would have only been able to turn it into fruit of the vine/wine which they knew as several of their kinds of wines and the majority of them!

Jesus was God made flesh He cannot contradict His own Word, He would not provide under any circumstance a substance for others to partake of which He had already forbidden them in the Word!

Knowing who we are in Christ and the price He paid to make us this forever ends the discussion about Christians drinking, and forever removes the very thought from our minds!

**Luke 2:9** Jesus turned water into wine. Why? Jesus first Miracle would have a very important message, the one he came to earth to die for! After 4,000 years Jesus is born and the "message" He choose to preach for His first miracle was this!

Bring me 6 water pots. Letting them know there would be 2000 more years to come before His Father set up His kingdom on the earth. The Jews were expecting Him to do it now and only

4000 years had passed. He was letting them know the correct time line. A year is as a thousand days and a thousand days is as one year to the Lord. The water pots were made of clay like us, He told them to fill them with water first, this always represents salvation, letting them know He was the Messiah and came to save us. The water pots held 20 gallons each x 6 = 120 gallons, prophesying the 120 on the day of Pentecost to be filled with new wine, He then turned the water into wine representing the infilling of the mighty Holy Spirit, the treasure in our earthen vessels. He then instructed the man to “draw some out” and take it to the governor of the feast to see if it was good! It was to be freely shared by all!

Jesus first message/miracle was the entire gospel, I am come to save you and the Holy Ghost will fill you and you will finish the next 2000 years of the church age like this until I come.

To even think that this miracle would be Jesus turning water into an alcoholic beverage that is known to damage people physical bodies and cause great hurt is ludicrous! Avoiding Alcohol for Kings, Priests, Nazarite's and Levites was preached from Gen. which the Jews knew, Jesus Himself was even forbidden to look at or touch the substance as a Levite and Nazarite. In the N.T. Jesus calls us kings and priests, a Levite is someone who simply serves in God's house, that us too and a Nazarite is someone who has dedicated himself to God, that' us also! This provision miracle was of Salvation and the Mighty Holy Ghost who is not to be profaned or blasphemed. We must be careful in our thoughts to not make God's Holy Words and His actions common!