

# University Heights Church of Christ

## BULLETIN

March 9, 2008

### DRUNKENNESS

Many addicted to alcohol would say, "It is a shame that God did not create a cow that gave such milk, or perhaps a spring that gave such water; or a fruit that had such juice." But God did not do that. Alcohol is not a natural product. For alcohol to exist it has to be manufactured by some person carefully following an unnatural process. God has never created a single drop of any fermented beverage. Beverage alcohol is completely a product of human invention and manufacture.

God created fresh grape juice, which is by far the most pleasant fruit juice that I know of, but God did not ever create fermented grape juice.

Humans are the creators of fermented grape juice. Compared to any other fruit juice on earth fresh grape juice has to be at the top of the list of good tasting fruit juices. It is a very happy asset to this world's vast array of good things to eat and drink. On the other hand, beverage alcohol is always at the top of the list of human problems both for those who use it and for those who suffer because others use it.

Noah is the first human on record to discover what was to become the major intoxicant of choice for all of the succeeding generations of humans. Noah's only recorded encounter with alcohol ended badly and the Bible does not suggest that Noah ever repeated the unfortunate and humiliating experience. The next recorded incident with alcohol was Lot, and his experience was also unfortunate and shameful.

Dating back to the time of the writing of the Book of Genesis, readers have been made starkly aware of the bad effect drinking fermented grape juice has on human behavior. Drunkenness is consistently condemned.

So what could they do with a grape crop other than squeezing and fermenting the juice? You can immerse fresh grapes in containers of water. I just ate a fresh grape from a cluster that I have kept immersed in a jar of distilled water sitting on a shelf in my dining room since August 26, 2004. I used distilled water so that it would not have any preservatives in it that might make the grapes stay fresh longer than the water would that the ancients had available. Today is March 1, 2008 and the grape I just ate was still fresh.

Another thing they could do with some varieties of grapes was dry them into raisins.

Another thing they could do was thicken the juice by boiling it and put the thickened juice into closed containers. That is the easiest and most fail-safe way to preserve grape juice. And you wind up with a wholesome product that even your babies can use with no ill effects. When you wish to use the thickened juice you mix water with it. I thickened some grape juice as an experiment August 23, 2003 and the juice is still fresh now, after all that time sitting in a two-thirds empty bottle on a shelf, first in my pantry, and later in my dining room. Do not ever let anyone tell you that people of ancient times could not keep grapes and grape juice fresh because they most certainly could. If you don't believe that, try it yourself and you will soon find that it is true that they could keep grapes and grape juice fresh. They were not forced by circumstances to turn any of their grape crops into an intoxicant unless they chose to do that.

In the New Testament drunkenness is condemned. I personally have never known of a single person who used intoxicants that had not been intoxicated. Every user of intoxicants that I have ever heard talk on the subject has always had tales of drunkenness to tell. In the New Testament there is no question that drunkenness is condemned.

DRUNK BDB/Thayers # 3182

3182 methusko {meth-oo's'-ko}

a prolonged (transitive) form of 3184; TDNT - 4:545,\*; v

AV - be drunken 2, be drunk 1; 3

1) to intoxicate, make drunk

2) to get drunk, become intoxicated

**Ephesians 5: 18** And **be not drunk with wine**, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit

**1Corinthians 6: 9** Know you not that **the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God**? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, **nor drunkards**, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but you are washed, but you are sanctified, but you are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

**1Thessalonians 5: 5** You are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as [do] others; but **let us watch and be sober**. 7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and **they that are drunken are drunken in the night**. 8 But let us, who are of the day, **be sober**, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not appointed us **to wrath**, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

**Galatians 5: 19** Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, **drunkenness, revellings, and such like**: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, **temperance: against such there is no law**. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Those who do not use intoxicants are not ever in any danger of becoming intoxicated. They are never in any danger of being at any level of intoxication, whether it is the "feel good at the party" level, the "wallow in your vomit" level, or the "run off of the road and kill a bunch of people" level. Intoxicants are a danger! The papers are full of horrible accounts of talented people destroying their lives and the lives of others because they will not escape their addiction to the effects of intoxicants. Life is full of great experiences if we are able to avoid the pitfalls and trans of sin. **OBEY GOD'S WORD!**

### Remember to Pray For

The Nations family in the death of Sharon's Uncle Clarence Bailey in North Carolina  
Lewis Harrod who fractured his wrist in a fall and had surgery for it on Thursday  
Dan Moody who suffered a heart attack on Tuesday  
Karen Rowe who is scheduled for surgery on Wednesday  
Carl and Anne Harper and Alexa Ann Cheryl Spear undergoing cancer treatments  
Lanny Hiller who had open heart surgery 2/21  
Roselyn Agyare  
Charity and Abdiel Pallafox  
Divya Srinivasan  
Donnie & Tracy Oliver & their baby  
Helen Stephens  
Brayden Grushon  
The mother of Lori Dailey  
Jeffrey Howerton  
Ruel Baker  
Addison Pervine  
Carl Stripplehoff  
Sybil Jamison  
Blanch Thompson  
Karen Handshoe  
Tom Kemp  
Freda Blakey  
James Stauffer

To give us food for reflection Jude said, "I will therefore put you in remembrance, though you once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not." (Jude 5)

The apostle Peter said, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour:" (1Peter 5:8)

The apostle John claimed that reading what he wrote can make us have fellowship with the faithful and with the Father and with the Son and make our joy full. 1John 1: 3 "That which we have seen and heard declare we to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship [is] with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things write we to you, that your joy may be full:"

The apostle Peter also said that reading what he wrote can make us remember what we ought to remember. 2Peter 3:1 "This second epistle, beloved, I now write to you; in [both] which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: 2 That you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior:"

That is why these inspired men wrote and that is why we must read what they wrote.

### Thoughts

I wonder what God wants us to do with New Testament? I know what God wanted the Jews to do with the Old Testament. God told them what to do with it.

**Deuteronomy 29:29** "The secret [things belong] to the LORD our God: but those [things which are] revealed [belong] to us and to our children for ever, that [we] may do all the words of this law."

God gave the Jews the Old Testament so that they could read it and know what God wanted them to do. God intended for the Jews to know the Old Testament and to obey it. **(Deuteronomy 17: 18** "And it shall be, when he sits upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of [that which is] before the priests the Levites: 19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:" Deuteronomy 31: 11 "When all Israel is come to appear before the LORD your God in the place which he shall choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. 12 Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and your stranger that [is] within your gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: 13 And [that] their children, which have not known [any thing], may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as you live in the land where you go over Jordan to possess it.") God gave the Jews the Old Testament so that they could learn it and obey it. Obeying the Old Testament would not make the Jews sinless but it would prove that they were willing to be faithful to God and if they were faithful to God the blood of Jesus would redeem them from the state that their sins had gotten them into. God's intention has always been to save the just by faith **Habakkuk 2: 4** "Behold, his soul [which] is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith."

God produced the New Testament for exactly the same reason that He produced the Old Testament, so that the just may live by faith.

**Romans 1: 16** "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God to salvation to every one that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness:"

**Luke 8: 10** "And he said, To you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God:"

**John 20: 31** "But these are written, that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through his name."

God produced the New Testament so that I may read it, know it and obey it.

### Notes

There will be a **men's business meeting** Today March 9, 2008 at 3:00PM

### REMEMBER OUR GOSPEL MEETING WITH GARY HENRY PREACHING APRIL 6-11

When the apostle Paul wrote, he understood that he was writing things that would allow the rest of us to know how to behave in order to please God **1Timothy 3: 14** "These things write I to you, hoping to come to you shortly: 15 But if I tarry long, that you may know how you ought to behave yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

We are faced with many irrational and unyielding departures from the true faith that is taught in the New Testament. The Holy Spirit specifically foretold that this would be the case. We must accept the truth of what the Holy Spirit said and refuse to follow any of those departures from the truth that is revealed in the New Testament. **1Timothy 4:1** "Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"

### WHAT DO WE PLAN TO DO WITH THE WORD OF GOD THIS WEEK?

#### Schedule of Services

##### Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9:45am

Worship Service 10:45am

##### Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00pm

##### Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies for all ages 7:30pm

##### Monthly Song Service

First Friday 7:30pm

## University Heights

## Church of Christ

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COME STUDY THE BIBLE  
AND WORSHIP WITH US