

Alcohol - continued

... out, "Didn't Jesus turn water into wine (John 2:10)?" Yes, of course he did, but "wine" in the Bible can be both unfermented (Isaiah 65:8) and fermented. Jesus would not violate Habakkuk 2:15, or other passages like this one, by giving people a lot of fermented, intoxicating wine.

Again drinkers say, "Didn't Paul tell Timothy to take "a little wine" (1 Timothy 5:23)?" Yes, of course he did, but this was for medicinal purposes; for his stomach's sake, not social or recreational purposes (see also Luke 10:34).

Again drinkers argue, "Doesn't the Bible condemn "drunkenness" (Galatians 5:19), and not small amounts of alcohol?" Yes, of course it does, but both large and small amounts (1 Peter 4:3) of alcohol are condemned.

The truth is a Christian is not to be brought under the power of any and that includes alcohol (1 Corinthians 6:12). A Christian is to be glorifying God in his or her body (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) and a Christian is to be sober (Titus 2:2,5,6).

Friend, don't let society tell you that alcohol is not all that bad (some say it is a "sickness" or "disease" ... other say we can do "responsible drinking"). Alcohol can destroy you internally, externally, and eternally. Those who **THINK** don't drink! Those who **DRINK** don't think!

- Chris Reeves -

Sentence Sermons

- The trouble with telling a "little lie" is that it doesn't stay little very long.
- True charity is giving without expecting anything in return.
- You cannot carry today, yesterday's troubles and tomorrow's worries.
- A good way to forget your troubles is to help others forget theirs.
- Weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Every day alcohol destroys thousands of people around the world. Will you be the next one in its destructive path? “No! Not me!”, you say. Well, read on.

Alcohol Can Destroy You Internally

First, alcohol can destroy you physically on the inside. Drinking alcohol can cause you to have blurred speech and vision, imbalance, slowed reflexes, blood poison, digestion disorders, and other infections. Alcohol can lead to stomach, liver (cirrhosis), kidney and heart diseases, cancers, and ulcers. Alcohol can cause brain cell damage, deterioration of vital organs and tissues, and neuritis or paralysis of the limbs. Is this really what you want from a drink of alcohol?

It should come as no surprise to us that alcohol destroys physically. The psalmist said this long ago about the internal physical problems associated with alcohol: “*They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end*” (Psalm 107:27). See also Proverbs 23:29; Isaiah 19:14; and 28:7-8.

Second, alcohol can also destroy you emotionally on the inside. As a depressant, alcohol depresses or slows down your brain activity leading to the slowing down of restraint (your mental brakes), good judgment, and self-criticism. Alcohol can also lead to loss of memory, loss of moral-

ity, paranoia, epilepsy, hallucinations, delirium, blackouts, depression, and even thoughts of suicide. Is this really what you want from a drink of alcohol?

Consider this wise proverb that speaks of the internal emotional problems associated with alcohol: “*Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler; and whosoever errs thereby is not wise*” (Proverbs 20:1). See also Genesis 9:20-24; 19:32; Proverbs 31:4-7; Isaiah 5:22-23; 28:7; Hosea 4:11; Amos 6:6; Habakkuk 2:15; and Luke 21:34.



Alcohol Can Destroy You Externally

Alcohol can destroy you externally by destroying your influence, example, and character before others. Your reputation and influence can be hurt by indecent acts caused by drinking alcohol. Your income can be hurt by poverty. Your family can be hurt by way of domestic violence, abuse, neglect, abandonment, fighting, divorce, adultery, poisoned pregnancy, and newborn alcoholics. Your family who sees you drink small amounts of alco-

hol now can take it to the next level in the future and drink much more than you do, all along giving you the credit for their drinking habit. Your neighbor can also be hurt by your drunk driving or crime. Is this really what you want from a drink of alcohol?

The apostle Paul wrote long ago about the external problems associated with alcohol: “*And be not drunken with wine, wherein is riot, but be filled with the Spirit*” (Ephesians 5:18). See also Genesis 9:21; Proverbs 21:17; 23:21; and Joel 3:3.

Alcohol Can Destroy You Eternally

As if the internal and external problems associated with alcohol are not enough, drinking alcohol can ultimately destroy your soul eternally. Alcohol can lead you away from God and keep you out of heaven. Is this really what you want from a drink of alcohol?

Paul wrote “*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these ... drunkenness, reveling, and such like; of which I forewarn you, even as I did forewarn you, that they who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God*” (Galatians 5:19-21).

Alcohol and the Christian

Those who know their Bible and still want to drink alcohol are quick to point ...