

DELIVERANCE FROM DRUNKENNESS



“Show me someone who drinks too much, who has to try out some new drink, and I will show you someone miserable and sorry for himself, always causing trouble and always complaining. His eyes are bloodshot, and he has bruises that could have been avoided. Don't let wine tempt you, even though it is rich red, though it sparkles in the cup, and it goes down smoothly. The next morning you will feel as if you had been bitten **by a poisonous snake**. Weird sights will appear before your eyes, and you will not be able to think or speak clearly. You will feel as if you were out in the ocean, sea-sick, swinging high up in the rigging of a tossing ship. 'I must have been hit', you will say; 'I must have been beaten up, but I don't remember it. Why can't I wake up? I need another drink.'” (Prov. 23:29-35)

There was no intoxicating drink in the garden of Eden. Fermentation, corruption, sickness and death came into the world through progressive sin. In the time of Noah fermentation was probably new and its consequences unknown to him. His drunkenness brought a curse upon Canaan. (Gen. 9:20-27),

WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT DRUNKENNESS !

The Word of God is quite clear about the sin of drunkenness and declares that: “No drunkard will possess God's Kingdom.” (1 Cor. 6:10). Unless he turns away from this evil habit.

THE EVILS OF ALCOHOL

”Suppose a man has a son who is stubborn and rebellious, a son who

will not obey his parents, even though they punish him. His parents are to take him before the leaders of the town where he lives and make him stand trial. They are to say to them, 'Our son is stubborn and rebellious and refuses to obey us; he wastes money and is a drunkard.' Then the men of the city are to stone him to death, and so you will get rid of this evil." (Deut. 21:18-21). "You and your sons are not to enter the Tent of my presence after drinking wine or beer; if you do, you will die." (Lev.10:9). "Drinking too much makes you loud and foolish, It's stupid to get drunk." (Prov. 20:1). "Kings should not drink wine or have a craving for alcohol. When they drink, they forget the laws and ignore the rights of people in need. Alcohol is for people who are dying, for those who are in misery." (Prov. 31:4-6). "You are doomed! Heroes of the wine bottle! Brave and fearless when it comes to mixing drinks! (Isaiah 5:22).

"Even the prophets and the priests are so drunk that they stagger. They have drunk so much wine and liquor that they stumble in confusion. The prophets are too drunk to understand the visions that God sends, and the priests are too drunk to decide the cases that are brought to them. The tables where they sit are all covered with vomit, and not a clean spot is left." (Isaiah 28:7-8).

Strong drink is not food and is not essential for our wellbeing. It is intoxicating and confuses the mind of the drinker. It not only goes to the stomach, but also to the head, and dominates the whole person. Therefore the Apostel Paul says: "Do not get drunk with wine, which will only ruin you; instead, be filled with the Spirit." (Eph. 5:18).

A PICTURE OF A DRUNKARD



Alcohol turns a person into a peacock, a monkey, a lion and finally a pig. When a person has drunk a little bit, pride comes into the heart. He thinks himself to be more clever and more handsome than anyone else. He also thinks of himself to be rich and begins to squander his money by standing others to a drink and so wastes his money while his wife and children are perhaps starving, in want of clothing and a proper home. He does not realise that this spirit of pride and wantonness has

hold of him. In the eyes of other people he is like the peacock which spreads out its feathers to show off its beauty, and its colour.

After drinking a little more he begins to talk a lot about himself, praising himself and mimicking others. When he finds that his foolish talking makes others laugh he gets more bold and talks more foolishly than ever. He begins to brag about great things which he has never done. He does not realise that he is acting like a monkey.

As he keeps on drinking he begins to feel as strong and as bold as a lion. He thinks he can fight anyone and everyone, and is not afraid of anything. He feels like a giant and breaks and smashes everything that comes his way. He feels delighted when people run away in fear and terror. He begins to roar like a lion, and causes his wife and children to run away from him in fear, while he breaks up the home and begins to fight everybody, and is not afraid to stab with a knife or to kill.

In addition, while he keeps on drinking because alcohol is a consuming fire which increases his thirst, they affect his mind. His head begins to spin and he begins to stagger all over, with eyes protruding, he now begins to see all sorts of things. Drink has got the better of him and finally he wallows on the ground like a pig. The peacock, monkey and lion finally give place to the pig. He even begins to grunt like a pig and so makes himself lower than a pig. This is a true picture of a drunkard. God therefore said that no drunkard shall inherit the Kingdom of God. (1 Cor. 6:10).

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“Wake up and weep, you drunkards; cry you wine-drinkers.” (Joel 1:5). True sorrow and confession of this sin to God will set you free if you believe in the gift of salvation which belongs to you through Jesus Christ, “It is at night that they get drunk. But we belong to the day, and we should be sober. God did not choose us to suffer His anger, but to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ; who died for us.” (1 Thess. 5:7-10)

Jesus came to save sinners, which includes drunkards. “If the Son sets you free, then you will be really free.” (John 8:36). Jesus said to the woman of Samaria: “If only you knew what **God gives**, ... you would ask Him, and He would give you life-giving water.” “But whoever drinks the water that I will give him will **never be thirsty again**. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring which will provide him with life-giving water and give him eternal life.” (John 4:10-14). “**Whoever is thirsty** should come **to me** and drink. As the Scripture says, ‘Who-

ever believes in me, streams of life-giving water will pour out from his heart.’” (John 7:37-38). “O God you are my God, and I long for you. My whole being desires you; like a dry, worn-out, and waterless land, my soul is thirsty for you.” (Ps. 63:1). “As a deer longs for a stream of cool water, so I long for you, O God. I thirst for you, the living God.” (Ps. 42:1-2).

Your soul, dear reader, is thirsting after the living God, Who alone can satisfy that thirst. Strong drink will never do it. It is like a man trying to quench a fire by pouring paraffin or petrol on to it. Jesus alone can satisfy the thirst of your living soul, as well as **any other thirst whether it be for riches, fame, power, pleasure, or women.** “**He who believes in me will never be thirsty.**” (John 6:35). “Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will **satisfy** them fully!”

Nothing in this world can satisfy the thirst of the human soul. Neither money, cattle, women, beer, wine, tobacco, dancing, or any earthly pleasure can truly satisfy. Jesus is the satisfying Bread and the Water of Life. “**I am the bread of life,**” Jesus told them. “He who comes to me **will never be hungry**; he who believes in me **will never be thirsty.**” (John 6:35).

Come to Jesus, come today. Streams of living water are flowing from Jesus Christ. When Jesus hung from the Cross for you and me, He cried: “**I am thirsty.**” (John 19:28). Jesus the fountain of living water, died of thirst, to take away that sinful thirst from you and to satisfy you. Get on your knees and cry to God, and He will give you to drink from the Fountain of Life.

“**Come whoever is thirsty**; accept the water of life as a gift, whoever wants it.” (Rev. 22:17). “Come, everyone who is thirsty – here is water!” (Isaiah 55:1). “As the fresh water brings joy to the thirsty, so God’s people rejoice when He saves them.” (Isaiah 12:3).

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