

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

March 17, 2015

Issue No. 188 Mark Aites, Editor

Alcohol

"I am more afraid of alcohol than of all the bullets of the enemy." – Stonewall Jackson

"To dispute with a drunkard is to debate with an empty house." – Publilius Syrus, *Moral Sayings*

"Drunkenness is nothing else but voluntary madness." – Seneca

"Drunkenness is temporary suicide." – Bertrand Russell, *The Conquest of Happiness*

"The first thing in the human personality that dissolves in alcohol is dignity." – author unknown

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise" (Prov. 20:1). "Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things" (Prov. 23:31-33).

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, alcohol related problems in the United States cost well over 200 billion dollars annually. Some 88,000 people lose their lives because of it. Countless lives have been ruined, homes devastated, marriages destroyed, terrible crimes committed, excessive property damage, etc. And yet, alcohol sales in America were on the rise in 2014. What is scary is that, in this country alone, sales exceed 400 billion dollars annually.

Despite biblical warnings, and the devastation to people's lives, it is shocking to hear Christians advocating drinking alcohol. They will say, "Now the Bible doesn't say you can't drink. It just condemns drunkenness." Yes, and how does drunkenness come about? Just how many folks have used the rationale that "a little won't hurt me" only to stumble and get caught up in consuming too much. It only takes once to drive a car intoxicated, or to engage in sin at a heavy cost.

One of the grave problems is that the use of alcohol takes away self-control, one of the very things that Christians are admonished to maintain (Gal. 5:22-23, 2 Pet. 1:6). It is interesting that when the apostle Paul appeared before Felix, there were three things that he reasoned: "righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come" (Acts 24:25).

March is the time for spring break. It is sad that it is also referred to as the top month of the year for teens to become pregnant or contract a sexually transmitted disease. One statistic noted that 48% of those who consumed alcohol deeply regretted their decision.

Before we jump on the proverbial band-wagon and advocate the consumption of alcohol, one might want to look closer at the horrible consequences that come with it.