

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 07 June 2020.....Proverbs 01.....Chartered Waters
- 2) 14 June.....Proverbs 03:1-18.....Direction Offered
- 3) 21 June.....Proverbs 03:19-35.....Compassion Demonstrated
- 4) 28 June.....Proverbs 04.....The Choice
- 5) 05 July.....Proverbs 05.....Following God's Design
- 6) 12 July.....Proverbs 08-09.....Pursuing Wisdom
- 7) 19 July.....Proverbs 14.....Living Wisely
- 8) 26 July.....Proverbs 15-16.....Pleasing God
- 9) 02 August.....Proverbs 23.....Staying Sober**
- 10) 09 August.....Proverbs 29.....Accepting Discipline
- 11) 16 August.....Proverbs 31.....Finding Honor
- 12) 23 August.....Song of Songs 1-5.....Relational Foundations
- 13) 30 August.....Song of Songs 5-8.....Relational Investment

INTRODUCTION

- The Bible paints alcoholic beverages with multiple personalities:
 - ♦ It is an important contributor to religious ceremonies**Ex 29:40**
 - ♦ It is a thief of good judgment..... **Prov 20:1**
 - ♦ It has some medicinal value **Prov 31:61; Tim 5:23**
 - ♦ It has poisoned families **Gen 9:20-25 (Noah); 19:30-38 (Lot)**
 - ♦ Its production has positive economic impact to societies
 - ♦ Its effect has destroyed societies
- In ancient Israel, vineyards were plentiful, wine was prized, and hence, temptation was everywhere
- In America today, alcoholic beverages are legal, widely available, and heavily advertised, hence, temptation is everywhere
- **How should God's people influence friends, family, and society in this era of rampant addictions? Total abstinence or moderation?**

Passage	Comments
Prov 20:1	<p>Alcohol's Deceptive Power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wine is personified as a Mocker, a Brawler, and a Fool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Mocker was someone to be expelled from society ♦ Brawler was a snarling, troublesome dog or person ♦ Fool was anyone undisciplined, lazy, angry, sinful
23:19-21	<p>Alcohol's Power to Make Poor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v19. The first charge in this passage is for us to stay focused on what is truthful, righteous, and wise • v20. We are to pick our friends carefully. Don't associate with those who chase after the flesh. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Deut 21:18-21 depicts what happens to a son when he is stubborn, rebellious, disobedient, gluttonous, & a drunkard – To protect society He was to be stoned • v21. Drunkenness and gluttony lead to poverty. The thoughts of all addicts are, "how can I get my next fix?" They often cheat, steal, lie, badger, and even kill for it.
23:29-30	<p>Alcohol's Destructive Power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v29. Six questions are asked. Sometimes the best way to get sinners to repent is not by preaching at them, but by asking them questions to make them think & reason: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Emotional Turmoil: Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Alcohol is a depressant, so why does a depressed person seek a depressant for his problems? ♦ Tumultuous Relationships: Who has conflicts? Who has complaints? Alcohol solves no problems ♦ Physical Problems: Who has wounds & red eyes? Alcoholic blackouts and health issues are rampant • v30. Rhetorical answer to the previous questions is the Alcoholic. Alcoholics and all addicts devote their energies to find their next fix. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Where we should be addicted to God and His word, we substitute the desires of the flesh

Passage	Comments		
Wine vs Strong Drinks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hebrew שכר "shekar" – To inebriate. Any kind of fermented and inebriating liquor beside wine (i.e, beer) • "Mixed Wine" – People had figured out how to improve common wine from grapes by mixing it with spices or other fruity wines to improve the taste or potency • When wine and beer is not enough, people devise other concoctions to satisfy their fleshly desires 		
23:31-35	<p>Alcohol's Addictive Power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v31. But wine looks good, tastes good, and feels good <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ No one is immune to its draw: Kings, priests, rulers, men, and women ♦ The fix? Solomon says don't even gaze at it. Flee youthful lusts. Remove yourself from the temptation. • vv32-35. More Health Issues. "It bites like a snake" – Sudden health failure (e.g., cirrhosis of the liver); Hallucinations and unintelligible chatter; vulnerable to intentional and unintentional injuries; unable to walk; 		
31:4-5	<p>Alcohol's Distractive Power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solomon's mother's infamous wisdom – Rulers should avoid alcohol; else they lose the ability to judge well <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Example: Senator Edward Kennedy could've been President if he avoided alcohol when he drove off the bridge and killed his secretary 		
31:6-7	<p>Alcohol's Use as a Sedative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicinal value to dull pain and kill harmful bacteria 		
	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>Alcoholic Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC approximates 80,000 deaths every year in the U.S. directly attributable to alcohol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ In contrast, U.S. deaths in Vietnam's 20-yr war: 58,000 • 70% of Americans consume alcohol; 40% weekly or more • 17M (~10%) American adults suffer from alcoholic addiction </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>Alcoholic Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient drinks were not distilled, so couldn't exceed 15% • Typical Beer/Coolers: 3-10% • Wines: 8-14% • Spirits (whiskey): 20-70% <hr/> <p>Alcoholic Inebriation Levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intoxication legal limit: 0.08% • Alcoholic blackout: 0.40% </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Alcoholic Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC approximates 80,000 deaths every year in the U.S. directly attributable to alcohol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ In contrast, U.S. deaths in Vietnam's 20-yr war: 58,000 • 70% of Americans consume alcohol; 40% weekly or more • 17M (~10%) American adults suffer from alcoholic addiction 	<p>Alcoholic Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient drinks were not distilled, so couldn't exceed 15% • Typical Beer/Coolers: 3-10% • Wines: 8-14% • Spirits (whiskey): 20-70% <hr/> <p>Alcoholic Inebriation Levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intoxication legal limit: 0.08% • Alcoholic blackout: 0.40%
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CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- In summary, anyone in a position of authority, should totally avoid consuming alcoholic drinks to keep their wits about them
- If only our politicians, teachers, parents, and a host of other authoritative figures would heed this simple advice
- **Total abstinence is, therefore, better than moderate consumption**
 - ♦ **Romans 14:21** "It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles"

NEXT WEEK: Proverbs 29. Depicts comparisons between the godly and the ungodly in various life situations.

