

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 Mar.....Proverbs 1:1-19..... Seek Wisdom's Ways
- 2) 09 Mar.....Proverbs 1:33-3:8..... Learn Wisdom's Benefits
- 3) 16 Mar.....Proverbs 8:1-9:18..... Listen To Wisdom's Invitation
- 4) 23 Mar..... Proverbs 10:11;12:17;18:21;25:26;31..... Guard Your Speech
- 5) 30 Mar.....10:11;13:14;19:20;22:24;26:28;21:27;28.....Don't be a Slacker
- 6) 06 Apr.....3:11;13:15;16:20;21:22;23;28;30..... Financial Responsibility
- 7) 13 Apr.....3:10;11;13;14;15;16;17;18;19;20;22;25;26;27..... Godly Friendships
- 8) 20 Apr.....Mark 14:32 – 16:8.....Amazed by the Resurrection
- 9) 27 Apr.....Proverbs 20; 23; 29; 31.....Avoid Addictions
- 10) 04 May.....Proverbs 5-6.....Moral Purity
- 11) 11 May.....Proverbs 31:10-31.....Treasure Mothers
- 12) 18 May.....Song of Songs 1:1-5:1.....Righteous Romance
- 13) 25 May.....Song of Songs 5:2-8:14.....Invest in the Best

INTRODUCTION

- The Bible paints alcoholic beverages having multiple personalities:
 - ♦ It is an important contributor to religious ceremoniesEx 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)
 - ♦ It's production has positive economic impact to societies
 - ♦ It's 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 is how can I get my next fix? They often cheat, steal, lie, badger, and even kill for it.
Faith and Intelligence	<p>The Christian faith is based on Intelligence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our faith is grounded on reliable history • God expects us to "reason together" • Even the Gift of Tongues was to convey intelligence • We must comprehend the truth of the Gospel • Then God "renews our mind" • To willfully lose our ability to reason is not of God
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

Passage	Comments		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 		
Wine vs Strong Drinks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hebrew רכש "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; Unable to walk; vulnerable to intentional and unintentional injuries 		
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"> <tr> <td> <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> <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% <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% <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

If one has a godly mother or grandmother they are used to getting "preachy" wisdom from them. Solomon's mother's wisdom was so on the money on the woes of alcohol, he made it available to all of us

- In essence, 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: Selected Proverbs. Teachings on morality.

