LESSONS THIS QUARTER
1) 02 May Proverbs 1:1-19. Seek Wisdom’s Ways
2) 09 May Proverbs 1:33-3:8. Learn Wisdom’s Benefits
3) 16 May Proverbs 8:1-9:18. Listen To Wisdom’s Invitation
4) 23 May Proverbs 10:11;12;17;18;21;25;26;31. Guard Your Speech
5) 30 May Proverbs 10:13;14;19;20;22;24;26;28;21;27;28. Don’t be a Slacker
6) 06 Apr Proverbs 3:11;13;15;16;20;21;22;23;28. Financial Responsibility
7) 13 Apr Proverbs 3:10;11;13;14;15;16;17;18;19;20;22;25;26;27. Godly Friendships
8) 20 Apr Proverbs 14:32 – 16:8. Amazed by the Resurrection

INTRODUCTION
- The Bible paints alcoholic beverages having multiple personalities:
  - It is an important contributor to religious ceremonies … ..Ex 29:40
  - It is the thief of good judgment … Proverbs 20:1
  - It has some medicinal value … Proverbs 31:6; Tim 5:23
  - It has poisoned families … Gen 9:20-25 (Noah); 19:30-38 (Lot)
  - It’d 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
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Alcohol’s Deceptive Power | v19. The first charge in this passage is for us to stay focused on what is truthful, righteous, and wise
Alcohol’s Power to Make Poor | v19. It is a thief of good judgment, hence, temptation is everywhere
Alcohol’s Power to Make Poor | v20. To willfully lose our ability to reason is not of God

Faith and Intelligence
- The Christian faith is based on Intelligence
  - 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

Alcohol’s Destructive Power | v29. Six questions are asked. Sometimes the best way to get sinners to repent is by not preaching at them, but by asking them questions to make them think & reason
- Emotional Turmoil: Who has woes? 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? Alcohol blackouts and health issues are rampant

23:19-21
Alcohol’s Addictive Power | v31. But wine looks good, tastes good, and feels good
- There is no one immune to its draw. Kings, priests, rulers, men and women

23:31-35
- The fix? Solomon says don’t even gaze at it. Flee

31:4-5
- Solomon’s mother’s infamous wisdom – Rulers should avoid alcohol, else they lose the ability to judge well
- 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
Alcohol’s Use as a Sedative | Medicinal value to dull pain, and kill harmful bacteria
- CDC approximates 80,000 deaths every year in the U.S. directly attributable to alcohol
- 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

Alcoholic Statistics | Alcohol’s Inebriation Levels
- 70% of Americans consume alcohol; 40% weekly or more
- 17M (~10%) American adults suffer from alcoholic addiction
- Ancient drinks were not distilled, so couldn’t exceed 15%
- Typical Beer/Coolers: 3-10%
- Wines: 8-14%
- Spirits (whiskey): 20-70%

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.