

## “ALCOHOLISM IS A DISEASE”

In defense of the consequences of drinking alcohol to the point of it's being defended **when** it reaches the point of “alcoholism”, is **absurd**. William Shakespeare is quoted as saying, “I will not put into my mouth that which destroys my brain.” Social drinkers do not pay any attention to this, neither do they believe it. By the time their brains are partially destroyed, they either do not have the capacity to believe it, or don't care, or they are so addicted that they can do nothing about it. They are helpless “alcoholics”.

Years ago, Dr. Frederick Lemere, a psychiatrist and neurologist of Seattle, Washington, wrote that alcohol is a habit-forming drug, and should be classified with narcotics and barbiturates. He also stated that drinking whittles away at the brain cells of an individual, killing brain cells that can never be replaced. Every time one goes on a drinking binge, many brain cells are destroyed—some of which are necessary for good mental and physical health. Is this good?

In today's society, many are sympathetic to alcoholism, and are as sympathetic toward the alcoholic as they are to a man dying with cancer. They state, “alcoholism is a disease, and one cannot help it.” The **only** way it can be helped to to **stop drinking entirely**. An alcoholic should never touch alcohol again if he wants to live a better life. Solomon wrote, “Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler; And whosoever erreth thereby is not wise” (Prov. 20:1, ASV). The apostle Peter states that we are to “abstain” from those things that war against the soul (1 Pet. 2:11). He did **not** say “be moderate”, but “abstain”—leave it alone entirely. CVS is to be commended for no longer selling tobacco products, but consistency should move them to also stop selling alcohol which does far more damage to man and society. My contact with CVS is that as long as they do not sell “hard liquor”, there is no problem, as they only sell wine and beer—so they “say” (in an effort to justify their selling “some” alcohol. Untold multitudes have become alcoholics by the use of beer and/or wine. Alcoholics who have tried to get off of alcohol have sometimes been misled into thinking that as long as they drink “soft” alcoholic drinks, they are “okay”. Yet, many alcoholics have gone **back** into their old ways through beer or wine, and even the so-called “non-alcoholic beer.” Seldom does anyone advise against drinking, but usually advise “drinking in moderation”, which is most difficult to do, and gets harder all the time. The philosophy of Hollywood and the TV industry is to portray and glamorize the use of wine and beer, to the extent that it illustrates a standard way of life. Are we so naive as to think that young people do not see these things as an example of what they are to follow in life?

I recently came across a paragraph in *STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS* by Maurice Meredith that was published many years ago by Lambert's Book House in Shreveport, LA, that needs our honest attention. Bro. Meredith wrote, on page 31, the following:

If alcoholism is as disease, it is the only disease that is contracted by an act of the will; it is the only disease that requires a license to propagate it; it is the only disease that is bottled and sold; it is the only disease that requires outlets to spread it; it is the only disease that produces a revenue for the government; it is the only disease that provokes crime; it is the only disease that is habit-forming; it is the only disease that is spread by advertising; it is the only disease that has

no germ or virus cause, and for which there is no human corrective medicine; and it is the only disease that will bar the patient from heaven.

It is scientifically stated that one who died of alcohol poisoning left his sad record behind. Facts show that 47% of the alcohol was in the brain, 33% was in the blood, and 20% was in the liver. This indicates what when one is arrested, and the blood is examined, showing a high level of 33%, that at that moment the brain and liver contain a huge amount of alcohol at the same time. No wonder their judgment is impaired. No wonder judges and police officers are sometimes found victims of their own poor judgment when they are arrested for rape or other crimes after a drinking spree.

There is a chain of events that bring shame and ruin to the drunkard. 1<sup>st</sup>, **dumb decisions**, 2<sup>nd</sup>, **deteriorated minds**, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, **diseased bodies**, and 4<sup>th</sup>, **destroyed lives**. Even God reveals that wine (intoxicating drink from grapes) is a mocker, and strong drink (any intoxicating drink made from other products) is a rage, and anyone who is deceived by such is “not wise” (is a fool). Intoxicants are personified by those who use them, as they become boisterous and unruly, and bring shame and ruin upon them. Intoxicants promise pleasure, but give pain and expose the user to shame and disgrace and ruined health. They disturb the brain from the very first time they are used. They bring wounds and sorrow (Prov. 23:29). They find a home in the bodies of their users, for “they seek it again” (Prov. 23:35). Their users are no longer masters of themselves, but become addicted to it, as they are no longer restrained by the laws of morality and decency. The users are mocked by strong drink, and they in turn mock all that is good. They often exhibit hallucinations and delusions, that can often remain in their minds for life.

The more one drinks, the more the physical health is destroyed, and the weaker the resistance becomes to that which destroys the body. Many experts agree that such poison that destroys certain organs of the body also poisons and destroys parts of the brain as it comes to and passes through the brain in its mission to destroy the complete person. It does not take a genius to figure this out, however. Alcohol runs rough-shod over the brain of its user, while on the way to the liver and other organs and functions of the body. Yes, in a sense “alcoholism is a disease”, but it is a self-inflicted disease that one brings on himself. There is no medical cure for this disease, and its symptoms never go away. If an alcoholic is forced to stop drinking, the desire and obsession for it never goes away. To say the least, it is a foolish and self-inflicted disease (if it can ever be classified as a “disease.”

Brethren, we need to continually warn the unruly, and remind them that we as God's people are to remember the words of inspiration from God, when they read “If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are” (1 Cor. 3:17). Though this passage was describing the church or body of Christ as that temple, it's message should be remembered when we consider the physical body as a temple. In the same book, Paul penned these words, “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's” (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

Our bodies are merely houses for the soul that God has made possible for us to have while we are pilgrims on earth, living in preparation for eternity. Let us not abuse our bodies, and lose our souls. Remember, both “body and soul” can be cast into hell (Matt. 10:28).

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