

## “I SAW A BODY”

Recently the owner of a local funeral home called me and asked me to go with him to the scene of a car wreck, to pick up the body of a man that was killed. When we arrived, the emergency people were already there, and had determined that a 19 year old man with a car full of other folks, was attempting to pass a string of cars in a no-passing zone. The kicker was that he had been drinking alcohol. We removed the body to take it to a nearby city where they were to do a “toxification” test to determine the amount of alcohol in his body. When they unlocked the body bag, one immediately said “alcohol”, which was from the odor in the bag. The body reminded me of the mangled body of Jesus, of the hymn “We saw Thee not”. However, this body I saw was one that had been virtually crushed, without being badly torn and mangled, with apparently most bones in the body crushed. *A sight to behold!*

I began thinking about what I was seeing, and several biblical thoughts came to my mind. I saw a body that brought some 15 things to mind. I am going to list these 15 things, with scripture attached to them, and then zero in on one particular point.

(1) I saw body that was the product of God's law of procreation. Gen. 1:27f; Heb. 12:9; Job 32:8

(2) I saw a body that began in innocence, without any guilt of sin or wrong doing. Rom. 7:9; cf Psa. 51:5

(3) I saw a body that was victimized by a sinful heart, which was used to satisfy a lust of the flesh in the use of the devil's brew—alcohol. Rom. 8:3; Mark 7:21; Rom. 6:12f

(4) I saw a body that no longer housed a spirit or soul. Eccl. 12:7; Gen. 35:18; Jas. 2:26

(5) I saw a body that ended because of Adam's sin (which opened the door to sin in the world, and ultimately to this man's death). Gen. 3:22-24; Rom. 5:14; Gen. 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:13, 14

(6) I saw a body that ended because of this man's own sin, as he obviously chose to do that which brought about his death—both spiritual and physical. Rom. 5:12; Ezek. 18:1-4, 14-22; Prov. 20:1

(7) I saw a body that will never sin again, for it was no longer under control of the human mind and spirit. Jas. 2:26

(8) I saw a body that will not have a second chance to avoid sin and makes things right with God in preparation for eternity. Heb. 9:27; 2 Cor. 6:1 Contrary to the teaching of Mormonism (baptism for the dead) and Catholicism (purgatory).

(9) I saw a body that will never see old age as we know it. Eccl. 12:1-14

(10) I saw a body that was going to the grave. Eccl. 12:7; Luke 16:22; Matt. 27:52f

(11) I saw a body that will decay. John 11:39f; Psa. 16:9f; Acts 2:25-32

(12) I saw a body that will be resurrected. John 5:28; Rev. 20:13; 1 Cor. 15:20-23

(13) I saw a body that will stand before the Lord in judgment. Heb. 9:27; 2 Cor. 5:10; Eccl. 12:13f

(14) I saw a body that will go to its own place. (His spirit in Hades. Luke 16:22,23, 28; 23:43; Acts 2:27). His body and soul in eternity. Acts 1:25; Matt. 25:34, 41).

(15) I saw a body that was going to bring great grief and sadness to the family who would soon view the body.

### **Are you ready for the grave and eternity?**

**Now**, let's go back and dwell more on a combination of points (3) and (6). The use of alcohol has brought more ruin, destruction, death and the loss of souls than perhaps more than any other thing in this world. Solomon declared that “Wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (Prov. 20:1). God, through Solomon declare that one who drinks the poison of alcohol in any

form is a fool – he is not wise. We realize that the text does not mention “beer”, so many choose to use this form of intoxication. Neither did Solomon mention “whiskey”, which is the strongest form of alcoholic drink. Wine is one form of alcoholic drink, and anything else is “strong drink”, which includes both whiskey, beer or any other form of strong drink.

Though the temptation to drink is especially strong in one's teenage years, and in association with people of the world in later years, the “wise” person will leave it alone. The Lord pronounced a “woe” upon one that gives his neighbor drink, puts the bottle to him, or makes him drunk (Hab. 2:15). God said, “Do not drink wine nor strong drink...” (Lev. 10:9). I think I hear someone thinking, “But Jesus turned water into wine, so it is okay for me to drink beer”. Do you think for one moment, that Jesus who **always** did His Father's will, and **always** pleased Him, would have given any form of intoxicating drink to his friends, or even had part in preparing it for them to drink?? The word “wine” in the New Testament is from the Greek word *oinos*, which is a “generic” word for unfermented grape juice, or fermented grape juice. The context has to be studied to determine which one is under consideration. The wine of John 2 was “good wine”, and **not** juice that had become corrupted.

Any amount of alcohol is that amount of intoxicating liquid in the body. The American Medical Society is on record as saying **“Any amount of alcoholic drink will impair judgment”**. This is true, whether it be 1%, or 10% of alcohol in the blood stream. If one drinks one can of beer, he is one can intoxicated. If he only drinks one half can of beer, then he is one half a can of beer intoxicated. Is one can of beer enough to “impair” judgment? The answer is an emphatic **“Yes”**. The word “impairment” (with alcohol) is *that which alcohol causes*, and is used interchangeably with “intoxication”. What alcohol does is cause “exhilaration”, or “intoxication”, and in **any amount** of intoxicant in the body, one is “intoxicated”, or drunk—to the degree which one has been drinking. To say, “It is all right to drink as long as I don't get drunk”, is an impossibility, for strong drink immediately gets into the blood stream, and “intoxicates”. When one feels the slightly amount of exhilaration, he is intoxicated, or drunk to some degree. Does the person live who has drunk as much as one can of beer, actually say he has never been drunk? If he drank one can, he was one-can drunk. Does the person live who **has** drunk one can of beer say that he has **never** been drunk **more** than the one can? Probably not, for one who has ever drunk a little, has drunk enough to impair his senses and judgment, which **is** intoxication, and is sinful. It is sinful when committed one time, or several times. The body I saw may have spoken the words, “I am an adult, I can drink beer if I want to”, without realizing it would lead to his death and bring shame and hurt to his family.

In an article on the Internet entitled “The Pros and Cons of Drinking Beer”, the writer C. Simmons of Health Assist. Net, wrote:

*“Even low amounts of alcohol can adversely affect the attention and motor skills. In fact, many serious accidents are alcohol related. This obviously includes motor vehicles, but can also include falling off your chair, down the stairs, out windows, etc.”*

One of the all-time great football players of the Dallas Cowboys, was a back named Bob Lilly. He was an eleven time pro-bowler, and spent 14 years in the NFL, from 1961 through 1974. When he retired from professional football, he invested his money in a Coor's beer distributorship, which made him lots of money. One day he was traveling down the highway, and came upon the scene of a terrible car wreck. He got out of his car, and walked up to the ugly scene before him, in which there were fatalities. Bob look around, and saw several empty Coors beer cans lying around the scene—seeing the results of what **he** had been selling and promoting. Those beer cans just may have been sold through Bob's distributorship. Bob made an immediate decision

to get out of the beer business, got rid of his distributorship at once. A good example was set. Bob realized the damage and death that his Coor's beer can cause, and no longer wanted to have a part in it, or to encourage it in any way. Any drinker or supporter or defender of alcohol needs to wise up and quit playing the fool.

Don Tarbet, author or "Drinking Alcohol, by Don Tarbet", as seen on *Google*.