



The Caller

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Confidence Corner

John F. Board

In this week's Confidence Corner we will examine the question "What is the big deal with alcohol?" I ask us to consider the following thoughts regarding this danger against which God provides strong

warning.

People see themselves using alcohol in four different ways. (1) Some people do not drink at all. (2) Some experiment with it—experimental drinkers. (3) Others are social drinkers, and (4) some are dependent or problem users. Some may move from one category to another in sequence, but others jump directly from nonusers to abusers.

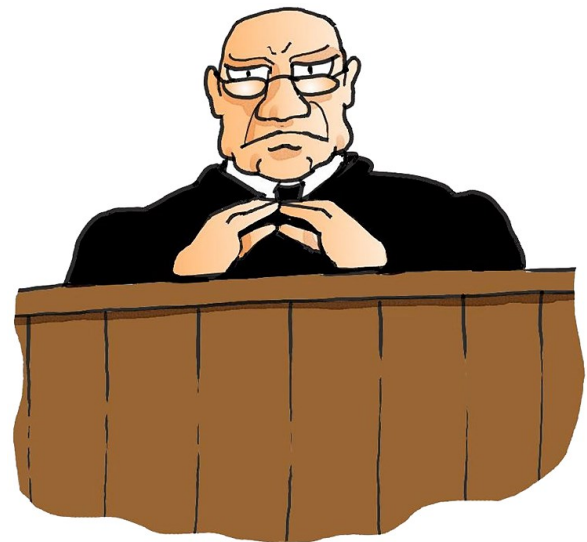
That alcohol is a drug that is not up for debate. Its toxic effects are well-known and cause permanent damage to the body. Large doses can result in immediate death, and prolonged usage can also hasten or cause death.

Unfortunately, those who think the Bible permits them to drink socially think they will never slip into the category of a problem or dependent users of alcohol, and they have convinced themselves that they will never become alcoholics. They think that happens only to others. Yet, if twelve people drink over the course of ten years, one will become an alcoholic, and three others will become problem drinkers. People do shift from one category to another, sometimes without realizing it.

After cancer and heart disease, alcohol is the third leading cause of death in this country. Alcohol is responsible for thousands of suicides and drowning deaths. Drunk drivers are responsible for about one-half of the fatal automobile accidents each year. In 1989 it was estimated that there were close to twenty million alcoholics in America. It has proved to be a dangerous drug.

So what is the big deal about alcohol? If we look to God and Scripture, the answer is clear. "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1)

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"My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons, For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

James 2:1-4

Sunday's Sermon at the building and on
Facebook Live

10:30AM

"So Then...Do You WANT To Sin?"

James 1:14-16

“Is Baptism really that important?”

In order to answer this question, I simply want to find some answers from those who lived during or close to the time of Christ. In other words, if I asked Jesus, Paul, or Peter, what response would they provide?

First, let us examine what Jesus tells us. In Matthew 28:1-20 Jesus reveals that disciples were to be made by “baptizing them into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” In Acts 11:26, the disciples are called Christians; this indicates that making disciples is the same as making Christians. Therefore the way one makes a disciple/ Christian is by baptizing them into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This obviously appears to teach that Jesus is saying that baptism is important.

Consider a second, perhaps even more clear statement of Jesus from Mark 16:16. Here Jesus says, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. He that believeth not will be condemned.” Notice Jesus said that a person must believe and also be baptized in order to be saved. It appears again that Jesus viewed baptism as extremely important!

When Paul is recounting what He did to become a follower of Jesus, he notes that he was told “And now why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). Again Paul obviously viewed baptism as something that washed away his sin. I do not see how anyone could argue that Paul did not view baptism as important.

And lastly, consider Peter. In 1 Peter 3:21 Peter wrote, “The like figure whereunto baptism doth also now save us...” Please realize that the passage does not say “baptism doth also NOT save us.” The passage says baptism doth also NOW save us! Again it is clear Peter viewed baptism as important!

So is baptism really important? If we look to those of Jesus' day, the answer is quite clear—YES! But how can we confirm our belief today?

One good way to confirm you're belief in baptism for the remission of sins is to simply start with Matthew and begin a search using a computer or something else to look for baptizing, baptize, baptism, baptized, etc. Begin reading each passage and find what can be learned from each passage. That is for sure a faith-strengthening exercise. Here are some Scriptures you might consider examining.

Matt 28:18-20

John 3:3-5

Mark 16:16

Romans 6

Galatians 3:26-27

Acts 2:38

Acts 22:16 (every conversion in Acts specifically mentions baptism).

1 Peter 3:21

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Elizabethtown, KY