

## Word Study on “Wine” in the Scriptures

The word “wine” appears 236 times in the NASB (241 in KJV). The following are the various Hebrew and Greek Words translated that have the word “wine” as part of the definition. The word “grape(s)” occurs 39 times (48 in KJV)

The definition in *italics* is the translation given in the NASB.

The definitions are those in the NASB Concordance. The additional definitions marked as “DBL” are from *The Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Hebrew* by James A. Swanson. Those noted as “TWOT” are from *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, by Harris/Archer/Waltke

Definitions marked LN = *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament based on Semantic Domains* by Johannes Louw & Eugene Nida (Louw-Nida)

### Old Testament

NASB Concord. # 3196 “wine”

3196. יַיִן / **yayin** (406b); from an unused word; wine :-- banquet(m)(1), grape(1), wine(136).

[Common word for “wine” in the OT. Had the ability to intoxicate - Genesis. 9:21, etc. Used as an offering to the Lord - Lev. 23:13; Num. 15:5; etc.]

(DBL: *i.e., a naturally processed, fermented grape juice, in excess amounts can cause drunkenness*)

NASB Concord. # 8492 “new wine”

8492. שׁוּרִית / **tirosh** (440d); from 03423 ; *must, fresh or new wine* :-- *fresh wine(1), grapes(1), new wine(33), wine(3)*.

[The common OT. word for new or fresh wine. Judges 9:13 states it “cheers God and man.” It is most often associated with harvest - God’s blessing brings and abundance of it, His judgment a lack of it. It is used as an offering to God - Deut. 18:4. Micah 6:15 would seem to indicate the grape juice before it be wine - 3196 ]

NASB Concord. # 2561 “wine”

2561. כֶּמֶח / **chemer** (330c); from 02560 (02560a) ; wine:-- wine(2).

BDB/Thayers # 02561 chemer kheh'-mer }

from 02560; TWOT- 683a; n m AV - pure 1, red wine 1; 2 1) wine

[used in Dt. 32:14; Isa. 27:2. This is distinguished from the “blood of grapes”]

(DBL: *partially fermented wine, i.e., wine vibrant in the process of coming to maturity, and so still bubble and foam, as a desired drink (Dt 32:14; Isa 27:2+), see also domain LN 5.1–5.22, note: for a v.r. in MT text in Isa., see 2774*)

**2560** (2560a). כֶּמַח / **chamar** (330b); a prim. root; to ferment, boil or foam up :-- foam(1), foams(1), greatly troubled(m)(2).

BDB/Thayers # **02560** chamar khaw-mar' } a primitive root; TWOT- 683,683d,685; v

AV - troubled 3, red 1, daub 1, foul 1; 6

1) to boil, foam, foam up, ferment

1a) (Qal) to boil, foam up

1b) (Poalal) to be troubled, be in turmoil

2) (Poalal) to be reddened

3) (Qal) to daub, seal up, cover or smear with asphalt

**2562**. כֶּמַח / **chamar** (1093b); (Ara.) corr. to 02561 ; wine :-- wine(6).

[Used in Ezra 6:9; 7:22; Daniel 5:1,2,4, 23 - would appear to intoxicate]

NASB Concord. # 6071 “sweet wine”

6071. עֵסֶר / **asis** (779b); from 06072 ; *sweet wine*-- *juice*(1), *sweet wine*(4).

[used in Isa. 49:26 - may indicate ability to intoxicate; Joel 3:18; Amos 9:13]

**6072. asas** (779a); a prim. root; to press, crush, tread down :-- tread down(1).

(DBL: *new wine*, i.e., *an alcoholic drink for revelry or drunkenness, relatively sweet to the taste since fermentation is incomplete* (Isa 49:26; Joel 1:5+), *note: context may prefer this to me a mature wine of higher alcoholic content, and so less sweet*; 2. LN 6.197–6.202 *nectar, sweet juice, must*, i.e., *the expressed juice of fruit, especially grapes, sweet and so not alcoholic* (SS 8:2; Joel 4:18[EB 3:18]; Am 9:13+), *note: some of these verses may go in prior entry*

NASB Concord. # 4197 “mixed wine”

4197. מֵזֶג / **mezeg** (561a); from an unused word; *a mixture* :-- *mixed wine*(1).

[Song of Solomon 7:2]

(DBL: “*mixed wine*, i.e., *a naturally fermented grape drink that is diluted with water or possibly mixed with other spices* (SS 7:3[EB 2] +), *see also domain LN 63.9–63.12*”)

NASB Concord. # 4469 “mixed wine”

4469. מִמְסַק / **mimsak** (587c); from 04537 ; *a mixed drink* :-- *mixed wine*(2).

[Isaiah 65:11;

(DBL: “i.e., *a vessel used for containing mixed wine, with a focus on the contents* (Pr 23:30; Isa 65:11+), *note: for another interp, see next*; 2. LN 6.197–6.202 *mixed wine, spice wine*, i.e., *wine that is mixed with spices as desirable drink, with a focus on the drink itself and not the vessel it comes in* (Pr 23:30; Isa 65:11+)”

**4537. masak** (587c); a prim. root; *to mix, produce by mixing* :-- *mingled*(1), *mixed*(3), *mixing*(1).

NASB Concord. # 8105 “aged wine”

8105. שֵׁמֶר / **shemer** (1038d); from an unused word; *lees, dregs* :-- *aged wine*(2), *dregs*(1), *lees*(1), *spirit*(m)(1).

Isaiah 25:6 And the Lord of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; A banquet of **aged wine** , choice pieces with marrow, [And] refined, **aged wine** . 7 And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, Even the veil which is stretched over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken.

(DBL: *dregs, lees*, i.e., *sediment or particles settling at the bottom, usually in an undisturbed, unmoved container* (Ps 75:9[EB 8]; Jer 48:11; Zep 1:12+), *note: in context a wine product, referring in some contexts to persons who are indifferent and inactive*; 2. LN 6.197–6.202 *aged wine, formally, dregs*, i.e., *wine fully fermented, having been stored and so has lees (sediment) on the bottom of the container, which is usually then filtered out before drinking* (Isa 25:6+)

NASB Concord. # 7941 “strong drink”

7941. שֵׁכָר / **shekar** (1016b); from 07937 ; *intoxicating drink, strong drink. shikkor*; see 07910 . :-- *drunkards*\*(1), *liquor*(1), *strong drink*(21).

[this was intoxicating. See paper on “Strong Drink” - could be purchased from tithe money and consumed by Levites before the Lord - Deut. 14:24-27]

(TWOT: Most likely not “liquor” for there is no evidence of distilled liquor in ancient times. It denotes not just barley beer but any alcoholic beverage prepared from either grain or fruit. In

*all but two of its twenty-three uses in the OT (Num 28:7; Ps 69:12 [H 13]) it appears in connection with yayin “wine” usually following it, once preceding it (Prov 31:6).*

**7937. שָׁכַר / shakar** (1016a); a prim. root; *to be or become drunk or drunken* :-- *became drunk(1), become drunk(5), drank freely(1), drunk(4), imbibe deeply(1), intoxicating(1), made drunk(1), make drunk(5).*

(TWOT: *In the Qal stem (ten times) the verb is intransitive, “be drunk.” In the Piel and Hiphil stems (four times each) it is transitive, “make drunk.”*)

**7910. שִׁכְּרוֹ / shikkor or shikkor** (1016c); from 07937 ; *drunken* :-- *drunk(4), drunkard(2), drunkards(3), drunken(1), drunken man(3).* Either literally: I Sam 1:13; 25:36; I Kgs 16:9; 20:16; Prov 26:9, or figuratively: Isa 19:14; 24:20; Jer 23:9; Ps 107:27.

NASB Concord. # 1660 “wine press”

1660. גָּת / **gath** (387c); from an unused word; *a wine press* :-- *grobe(2).*

(DBL: *i.e., a construction for stomping and pressing juice from grapes, in various shapes; of a trough, vat, or even a pit (Jdg 6:11; Ne 13:15; Isa 63:2; La 1:15; Joel 4:13[EB 3:13]+)*)

NASB Concord. # 6333 “wine trough”

6333 (6333b). הָרִיפַּ / **purah** (807d); from an unused word; *wine press* :-- *measures(m)(1), trough(1), wine(1).* (DBL: *i.e., a relatively large container either hewn from solid rock or built with rock and mortar, and plastered for a sealing of liquid from smashing grapes (Isa 63:3+),*

NASB Concord. # 3342 “wine vat”

3342. יֶקֶבֶץ / Yeqeb (428c); from an unused word; *wine vat* :-- *pressed(1), vats(3), wine press(3), wine presses(3), wine vat(6).* (DBL: *i.e., a container to mash fruit of trees and plants, press out the liquid with weights and channel into vat or other containers, sometimes carved out of bedrock (Nu 18:27, 30; Dt 15:14; 16:13; Jdg 7:25; 2Ki 6:27; Job 24:11; Isa 5:2; 16:10; Jer 48:33; Hos 9:2; Zec 14:10+), note: in context either grape juice or olive oil; 2. LN 6.118–6.151 vat, i.e., small reservoir to hold juice or oil (Pr 3:10; Joel 2:24; 4:13[EB 3:13]; Hag 2:16+), note: there may be overlap in verses and meanings*

## GRAPES

NASB Concord. # 6025

6025. **enab** (772a); from an unused word; *a grape* :-- *grape(1), grapes(17), raisin\*(1).*

NASB Concord. # 1155

1155. **boser** (126a); from an unused word; *unripe or sour grapes* :-- *grape(1), sour grapes(3), unripe grape(1).*

NASB Concord. # 1210

1210. **batsir** (131b); from 01219 ; *a vintage* :-- *grape(1), grape gathering(2), grape harvest(2), vintage(2).*

**1219. batsar** (130d); a prim. root; *to cut off, make inaccessible, enclose* :-- *cut off(1), fortified(24), fortify(2), gather(3), gathered(1), gatherer(1), gatherers(2), impenetrable(m)(1), impossible(m)(1), mighty things(1), thwarted(1).*

NASB Concord. # 4952

4952. הַרְרָה / **mishrah** (1056a); from 08281 ; *juice* :-- *juice*(1).

[*"Blood of grapes" used to describe juice from grapes (Gen 49:11), also described as being squeezed producing a drink (Gen. 40:11). Grape + "juice" (#4952) was also a drink.*] (DBL: i.e., *fluid which has been expressed from fruit (Nu 6:3+), note: in context, grape drink / juice*)

NEW TESTAMENT

NASB Concord. # 3631

3631. οἶνος, οὖ **oinos**; a prim. word; *wine* :-- *wine*(33), *wine*\*(1).

[*Common word for wine, can cause intoxication - Eph. 5:18. When joined with "new" (νέος) it is "new wine" as in Mt. 9:17 & cross references of fresh wine put into wineskins prior to complete fermentation*].

(LN: *a fermented beverage made from the juice of grapes— 'wine.' . . . "Though some persons have argued that whenever mention is made of Jesus either making or drinking wine, one must assume that this was only unfermented grape juice, there is no real basis for such a conclusion. Only where οἶνος νέος 'new wine' (6.198) is mentioned can one assume that this is unfermented grape juice or grape juice in the initial stages of fermentation.*

NASB Concord. # 1098

1098. γλευκος, οὖς **gleukos**; from 1099 ; *sweet new wine* :-- *sweet wine*(1).

[*Acts 2:13 - indicates that it can cause intoxication*]

(LN: *a new, sweet wine in process of fermentation*

NASB Concord. # 3690

3690. ὀξος, οὖς **oxos**; from 3691 ; *sour wine* :-- *sour wine*(6).

BDB/Thayers # 3690 *oxos oz-os* } from 3691; TDNT - 5:288,701; n n AV - vinegar 7; 7

1) vinegar 1a) *the mixture of sour wine or vinegar and water which the Roman soldiers were accustomed to drink*

**3691.** ὀξύς, εἶα, ὕ **oxus**; a prim. word; *sharp, swift* :-- *sharp*(7), *swift*(1).

(LN: *a cheap, sour wine (evidently a favorite beverage of poorer people and relatively effective in quenching thirst)— is sometimes rendered as 'bitter wine' or 'sour juice.'*

NASB Concord. # 3943

3943. παροινος, οὖ **paroinos**; from 3844 and 3631 ; *given to wine, drunken* :-- *addicted to wine*(2).

[1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7) - "beside / alongside the wine" One who sits long at his wine - Thayer (LN: **πάροινος, οὖ** *m*: a person who habitually drinks too much and thus becomes a drunkard—'drunkard, heavy drinker.' 1 Cor 6:10. Lk 7:34. Titus 1:7.

Note: 1 Tim. 3:8 says μὴ οἶνω πολλῷ προσέχοντας of Deacons - not given to much wine

NASB Concord. # 3630

3630. οἰνοποτης, οὖ **oinopotês**; from 3631 and **potês** (a drinker); a wine drinker :-- drunkard(2).

[Mt. 11:19 & Luke 7:34 - this is what Christ was accused of being )

(LN: a person who habitually drinks too much and thus becomes a drunkard—'drunkard, heavy drinker.' - *A winebibber* - Strongs

NASB Concord. # 3025

3025 (3025b). ληνος, οὖ **lênos**; a prim. word; *a trough, i.e. a (wine) vat* :-- *wine press*(4), *wine press*\*(1).

*NASB Concord. # 5276*

5276. υποληνιον, ου **hupolênion**; from 5259 and 3025 (3025b) ; *a vessel or trough beneath a winepress (to receive the juice) :-- vat under the wine press(1).*

*NASB Concord. # 5276*

5276. σίκερα / sikera; of Heb. or. [7941]; fermented liquor:—liquor(1).

(LN 6.200 **σίκερα** / sikera *n*: *an intoxicating drink made from grain—‘beer.’* ο?νον καὶ σίκερα οὐ μὴ πίη *‘he must not drink wine or beer’* Lk 1:15. *Though σίκερα may have a generic meaning and thus refer to any type of intoxicating drink, in the NT it occurs only in Lk 1:15, where it contrasts with wine and refers to intoxicating beverages made from grain. Distilled alcoholic beverages, such as whiskey, gin, and vodka, were not known in the ancient world.*

*Scriptural Commands/Directives Concerning "Strong Drink" (NASB)  
(shekar shathah - intoxicating/strong drink)*

*Lev. 10:9 - Prohibition against use by High Priests when ministering in the tent of meeting.*

*"Do not drink wine or strong drink, neither you nor your sons with you, when you come into the tent of meeting, so that you may not die-- it is a perpetual statute throughout your generations--*

*Numbers 6:2,3 - Prohibition against those under Nazirite vows to partake of wine or strong drink.*

*"Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, 'When a man or woman makes a special vow, the vow of a Nazirite, to dedicate himself to the Lord, 3 he shall abstain from wine and strong drink ; he shall drink no vinegar, whether made from wine or strong drink, neither shall he drink any grape juice, nor eat fresh or dried grapes.*

*Numb 28:7 - Used as a libation offering to the Lord*

*'Then the libation with it [shall be] a fourth of a hin for each lamb, in the holy place you shall pour out a libation of strong drink to the Lord.*

*Deut. 14:24-27 - Levites could use tithe money to buy whatever they desired including wine & strong drink and rejoice with it before the Lord*

*"And you may spend the money for whatever your heart desires, for oxen, or sheep, or wine, or strong drink, or whatever your heart desires; and there you shall eat in the presence of the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household.*

*Deut 29:6 - There was no wine or strong drink (or bread) during the wilderness wanderings.*

*Judges 13:4,7,14 - Manoah's wife was not to have wine or strong drink while pregnant with Samson and Samson would be raised under the Nazirite vows and not be allowed to have wine or strong drink.*

*1 Sam. 1:15 Hannah accused of being drunk, but she had neither wine or strong drink. She was deeply troubled and had poured out her heart to the Lord.*

*Prov 20:1 - Warning against being intoxicated by it.*

*Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.*

*Prov 31:4 - A caution to kings and rulers about drinking wine or strong drink.*

*It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Or for rulers to desire strong drink,*

*Prov 31:6 - Strong drink is for those perishing and wine to those with bitter lives.*

*Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to him whose life is bitter. 7 Let him drink and forget his poverty, And remember his trouble no more.*

*Isaiah 5:11,22 Warning to those neglecting the Lord and instead seeking strong drink and wine. They see themselves as strong & valiant for drinking much wine and mixing strong drink.*

*Woe to those who rise early in the morning that they may pursue strong drink; Who stay up late in the evening that wine may inflame them! And their banquets are [accompanied] by lyre and harp, by tambourine and flute, and by wine; But they do not pay attention to the deeds of the Lord, Nor do they consider the work of His hands. 5:22 Woe to those who are heroes in drinking wine, And valiant men in mixing strong drink;*

*Isaiah 24:9 When the Lord judges, all joy is lost. Wine is no longer drunk with song and strong drink becomes bitter.*

*They do not drink wine with song; Strong drink is bitter to those who drink it.*

*Isaiah 28:7 Part of the reason Ephraim was judged by God - Their spiritual leaders became drunkards (cf. 28:1) And these also reel with wine and stagger from strong drink: The priest and the prophet reel with strong drink, They are confused by wine, they stagger from strong drink; They reel while having visions, They totter [when rendering] judgment.*

*Isaiah 29:9 The Lord's judgment against Jerusalem will include the prophets acting like they were drunk, though they had nothing to drink that would intoxicate them. .*

*Isaiah 56:12 Evil men continue in their ways thinking there will be no judgment tomorrow.*

*"Come," [they say,] "let us get wine, and let us drink heavily of strong drink; And tomorrow will be like today, only more so."*

### *Interesting Verses about Wine*

*(yayin - grape juice that had fermented. Unfermented grape juice was enab/grape mishrah/juice and was available only when the grapes were first squeezed. Those under Nazirite vows could have no product of grapes including wine, strong drink, vinegar or grape juice).*

*1 Chronicles 12:38 (NASB) All these, being men of war, who could draw up in battle formation, came to Hebron with a perfect heart, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest also of Israel were of one mind to make David king. 39 And they were there with David three days, eating and drinking; for their kinsmen had prepared for them. 40 Moreover those who were near to them, [even] as far as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, brought food on donkeys, camels, mules, and on oxen, great quantities of flour cakes, fig cakes and bunches of raisins, wine, oil, oxen and sheep. There was joy indeed in Israel.*

*Jeremiah 48:32 "More than the weeping for Jazer I shall weep for you, O vine of Sibmah! Your tendrils stretched across the sea, They reached to the sea of Jazer; Upon your summer fruits and your grape harvest The destroyer has fallen. 33 "So gladness and joy are taken away From the fruitful field, even from the land of Moab. And I have made the wine to cease from the wine presses; No one will tread [them] with shouting, The shouting will not be shouts [of joy.]*

*Deut. 14:22 "You shall surely tithe all the produce from what you sow, which comes out of the field every year. 23 "And you shall eat in the presence of the Lord your God, at the place where He chooses to establish His name, the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the first-born of your herd and your flock, in order that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. 24 "And if the distance is so great for you that you are not able to bring [the tithe,] since the place where the Lord your God chooses to set His name is too far away from you when the Lord your God blesses you, 25 then you shall exchange [it] for money, and bind the money in your hand and go to the place which the Lord your God chooses. 26 "And you may spend the money for whatever your heart desires, for oxen, or sheep, or wine, or strong drink, or whatever your heart desires; and there you shall eat in the presence of the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. 27 "Also you shall not neglect the Levite who is in your town, for he has no portion or inheritance among you.*

*Zechariah 10:7 "And Ephraim will be like a mighty man, And their heart will be glad as if [from] wine; Indeed, their children will see [it] and be glad, Their heart will rejoice in the Lord.*

*Genesis 9:21 (NASB) And he drank of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent. Noah became drunk on wine (yayin). First case of drunkenness.*

*Psalms 104: 14 He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for the labor of man, So that he may bring forth food from the earth, 15 And wine which makes man's heart glad, So that he may make [his] face glisten with oil, And food which sustains man's heart. (see also Judges 9:11)*

*Wine as a daily part of life: Gen. 14:18 - 18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. 1 Samuel 16:20 - And Jesse took a donkey [loaded with] bread and a jug of wine and a young goat, and sent [them] to Saul by David his son. 2 Chr. 11:5 - 11 He also strengthened the fortresses and put officers in them and stores of food, oil and wine. John 2:1,2 7 Jesus ^said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He ^said to them, "Draw [some] out now, and take it to the headwaiter." And they took it [to him.] 9 And when the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter ^called the bridegroom, 10 and ^said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when [men] have drunk freely, [then] that which is poorer; you have kept the good wine until now.", 7-10-2 and Jesus also was invited, and His disciples, to the wedding. 3 And when the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus ^said to Him, "They have no wine." cf 2 Chron. 2:10; 31:4; Ezra 6:9; Neh. 5:18;*

*Blessings associated with abundance of wine - cf. Gen. 27:28; 49:11; 1 Kings 4:25; Prov. 3:10; Isa. 55:1; 62:8,9; Amos 9:14;*

*Judgment associated with lack of wine - Deut. 28:39,51; Isa. 24:6-11; Jer. 48:33; Micah 6:15.*

*Medical use: Luke 10:34; 1 Timothy 5:23*

## *Cautions on Use of Wine*

*Lev. 10:9 - High priests forbidden to drink when ministering in Tent of Meeting: "Do not drink wine or strong drink, neither you nor your sons with you, when you come into the tent of meeting, so that you may not die-- it is a perpetual statute throughout your generations--*

*Numb. 6:2,3 Those under Nazirite vow prohibited from drinking. 'When a man or woman makes a special vow, the vow of a Nazirite, to dedicate himself to the Lord, 3 he shall abstain from wine and strong drink; he shall drink no vinegar, whether made from wine or strong drink, neither shall he drink any grape juice, nor eat fresh or dried grapes.*

*\*Prov. 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.*

*\*Prov. 21:17 He who loves pleasure [will become] a poor man; He who loves wine and oil will not become rich.*

*\*Prov. 23:19-21 19 Listen, my son, and be wise, And direct your heart in the way. 20 Do not be with heavy drinkers of wine, [Or] with gluttonous eaters of meat; 21 For the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe [a man] with rags.*

*\*Prov. 23:29-35 29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? 30 Those who linger long over wine, Those who go to taste mixed wine. 31 Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it goes down smoothly; 32 At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. 33 Your eyes will see strange things, And your mind will utter perverse things. 34 And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea, Or like one who lies down on the top of a mast. 35 "They struck me, [but] I did not become ill; They beat me, [but] I did not know [it.] When shall I awake? I will seek another drink.*

*\*Prov. 31:4-7 4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Or for rulers to desire strong drink, 5 Lest they drink and forget what is decreed, And pervert the rights of all the afflicted. 6 Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to him whose life is bitter. 7 Let him drink and forget his poverty, And remember his trouble no more.*

*Romans 14:20 Caution about causing weaker brother to stumble: 20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense. 21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or [to do anything] by which your brother stumbles.*

*Ephesians 5:18 - Contrast on what should control us: And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,*

*1 Timothy 3:2-3 & Titus 1:7 Elder qualifications 2An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money. 7 For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,*

*1 Timothy 3:8 Deacon qualifications: 8 Deacons likewise [must be] men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain,*

*Titus 2:3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,*

*1 Cor. 6:12 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything*

*1 Timothy 4:1-5 1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, 3 [men] who forbid marriage [and advocate] abstaining from foods, which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with gratitude; 5 for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.*

## *Jesus & Wine*

*\*John 2:3-11. 3 And when the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus ^said to Him, "They have no wine."* 4 *And Jesus ^said to her, "Woman, what do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come."* 5 *His mother ^said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."* 6 *Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each.* 7 *Jesus ^said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim.* 8 *And He ^said to them, "Draw [some] out now, and take it to the headwaiter." And they took it [to him.]* 9 *And when the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter ^called the bridegroom,* 10 *and ^said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when [men] have drunk freely, [then] that which is poorer; you have kept the good wine until now."* 11 *This beginning of [His] signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.*

*First miracle was turning water into "good" wine at the wedding held in Cana of Galilee. Vs. 10 indicates that the headwaiter expected the "good" wine to have some intoxicating effect since the "poorer" wine normally served later would then be more readily accepted.*

*\*Matt. 9:17; Mark 2:22 and Luke 5:37-39. Jesus uses the practice of placing new wine in new wine skins and not old wine skins lest they burst as a parable. Luke 5:39 is significant as to how new wine compared to old wine in quality. Luke 5:37 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. 38 But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved. 39 No man also having drunk old [wine] straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.*

*\*Matt. 21:33 & Mark 12:1. Common practices of wine making used in his parables with no condemnation of the practice.*

*\*Luke 10:34. Jesus describes wine being used in a medicinal capacity in the illustration of the Good Samaritan*

*\*Matthew 11:18,19 & Luke 7:33. Jesus was accused of being a glutton and a drunkard because he ate bread and drank wine in contrast to John the Baptist whom they accused of being demonized. Luke 7:33 "For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine; and you say, 'He has a demon!'" 34 "The Son of Man has come eating and drinking; and you say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man, and a drunkard, a friend of tax-gatherers and sinners!'" 35 "Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children."*

*\*Matthew 26:27; Mark 14:23; Luke 22:20; cf. 1 Cor. 11:25f. The passover cup used to institute the Lord's Supper (Communion).*

*\*Matthew 26:29 Jesus tells His disciples at the Last Supper: "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."*

*\*Isaiah 25:6 indicates that the banquet the Lord will prepare in that Kingdom will include "aged wine." 6 And the Lord of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, [And] refined, aged wine. 7 And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, Even the veil which is stretched over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken. 9 And it will be said in that day, "Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."*

*\*Matthew 27:34; Mark 15:23; Was offered wine mixed with gall/myrrh while on the cross, but rejected it.*

*\*Matthew 27:48; Mark 15:36; Luke 23:36; John 19:29,30. Jesus was offered sour wine while on the cross and received it.*

This is a sermon in which I incorporated some of the topical research above and made application of it in a thoroughly Biblical manner - SLH

Pastor Scott L. Harris  
Grace Bible Church, NY  
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## Proverbs on Wine & Drinking Selected Scriptures

### Introduction

This morning I want to address the subject of wine and drinking. Proverbs has two themes when it comes to the subject of wine. The first theme is found in the invitation of wisdom in Proverbs 9:1-5. *"Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars; She has prepared her food, she has mixed her wine; She has also set her table; She has sent out her maidens, she calls From the tops of the heights of the city: 'Whoever is naive, let him turn in here!' To him who lacks understanding she says, 'Come, eat of my food And drink of the wine I have mixed.'" Wine is associated with blessing.*

The second theme is found in Proverbs 20:1, *"Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise."* Wine is dangerous and getting drunk is foolish.

These same two themes are also found in the teachings in the rest of the Scriptures. The result has been a lot of controversy between those that emphasize one theme or the other. One extreme holds that Scripture is against the consumption of anything that contains alcohol (except a small amount for medicinal purposes because of Paul's statement in 1 Timothy 5:23). The other extreme is licentious. They see no problem with anything alcoholic as long as you don't become an alcoholic. Those in the middle are shot at by both sides as being either a some kind of legalist or a "moderationist."

Before we start looking at what the Scriptures teach, I want to state up front that I am a teetotaler. I do not drink things that are alcoholic out of both personal preference and concern about my influence on others because I am a pastor. As a preference, I admit it is simply a matter of personal taste. I have not yet tasted anything with alcohol in it that was better than the non-alcoholic version. But to me, that just makes sense since alcohol is produced as the by-product of fermentation which is the process by which the single celled organism, yeast, feeds on sugar and yields alcohol as its waste. In other words, an alcoholic beverage began as something sweet when it was fresh, but it was allowed to begin to rot. Both my sense of taste and smell have a preference for what is fresh and sweet over what has started to rot. I also don't care for the "bite" alcohol produces on the tongue. I don't personally care for heavily carbonated beverages for the same reason. I also think that fresh grape juice tastes and smells better than wine. I am still not sure how people get beer past their nose in order to drink it - perhaps they hold their breath. But again, that is my preference of taste. There are certainly millions of people that disagree with me - but then I am sure I like things they do not - brussel sprouts, broccoli, peas, lima beans, coconut, mushrooms, venison, squirrel, etc.

As a matter of conviction, I want to be very careful about what I do since I am a pastor. There is a reason that Paul included a difference between the qualifications for an Elder and Deacon. The Elder is "not given to wine" and the Deacon is "not given to much wine" (1 Timothy 3:3 & 8). Deacons can have more wine than an Elder. Because I am a pastor, I know that my example will heavily influence others resulting in some justifying themselves by what I do and then do what is sin for them. Romans 14:22-23 states in a context that does include what you eat, *"The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin."* If I am seen drinking, others who do not have faith that it is acceptable before God to drink may do so because of my example. It is of greater concern to me not to be a stumbling block to a brother or sister than to partake of something that I am otherwise free before the Lord to do. The fact that my taste preferences do not include alcoholic beverages

just makes that easier for me. (I am glad that I do not know anyone that thinks any consumption of chocolate is sinful).

Now that it is clear that I am a teetotaler by preference and conviction, let us examine what the Scriptures say about this issue.

## Definitions

The first thing you discover in doing a careful study of this issue is that there are a lot of Hebrew and Greek words that have to be defined. Let me quickly summarize the words that are relevant to this study (A printed copy of the extensive word study is in the back).

First are the words for wine - יַיִן / yayin in Hebrew and οἶνος / oinos in Greek. Both refer to the same thing. יַיִן / yayin is *“a naturally processed, fermented grape juice, in excess amounts can cause drunkenness”* (DBL). Οἶνος / oinos is *“a fermented beverage made from the juice of grapes—‘wine’”* (LN). Wine contains alcohol. Louw-Nida notes, *“Though some persons have argued that whenever mention is made of Jesus either making or drinking wine, one must assume that this was only unfermented grape juice, there is no real basis for such a conclusion. Only where οἶνος νέος ‘new wine’ is mentioned can one assume that this is unfermented grape juice or grape juice in the initial stages of fermentation.*

The phrase “blood of grapes” could be the equivalent of grape juice or have some level of alcohol depending on the degree of fermentation. The Hebrew term שׁוֹרֵית / tirosh means new or fresh wine. This would have a low alcohol content at the start since it was fresh, but the fermentation process would begin very rapidly in the warm climate of Judea. The Hebrew term רֶמֶח / chemer refers to the bubbles produced in the process of fermentation, so this term and its cognates refer to grape juice that is in the process of becoming wine. It is a desirable drink (Deuteronomy 32:14), but it does have the ability to intoxicate (Daniel 5). If it still has a high sugar content (due to only being partially fermented), it could be referred to as סִינֶעֶ / asis, which is sweet wine. The Greek term for this is γλευκος / gleukos. This would not be as alcoholic as fully fermented wine, but it could intoxicate if enough were consumed (Acts 2:13; Isaiah 49:26). An aged wine is שֶׁמֶר / shemer, a Hebrew term that actually refers to the dregs or sediments that settle at the bottom of a wine container that has not been disturbed for a long time. This wine is fully fermented.

There is no evidence that the ancients distilled alcoholic beverages - hard liquors. Distillation does not seem to have developed until the late middle ages and then expanded during the Renaissance period. However, the ancients did have a reference to “strong drink” which is sometimes improperly translated as liquor. In Greek this is σίκερα / sikera, an *“intoxicating beverages made from grain”* (LN), and in Hebrew it is שֶׁכָּר / shekar which is made from either grain or fruit such as pomegranates, dates and apples. The cognates of this Hebrew term refer to getting drunk or being a drunkard (שָׁכַר / shakar & שִׁכְּוֹר / shikkor).

Let me also quickly note here some additional important facts I remember from my college agriculture classes which included viticulture. The alcohol content in something that ferments naturally is usually 4 - 12% . Some modern wines fermented under carefully controlled conditions can go as high as 20%. Distilled liquors are in a completely different category with common alcohol content of liquors and spirits of 35-65% and may go up to - 80% or more (70-180 proof). Do not make the mistake of thinking that what the Bible says about wine and “strong drink” - grain based fermented drinks - applies in the same way to liquors and spirits. More about that later.

The Bible also makes reference to “mixed wines” (Song of Solomon 7:2; Proverbs 9:2; Isaiah 65:11). These are probably references to either different wines being mixed together or spices added to enhance the flavor. We know that things such as vinegar (Matthew 27:34), Myrrh (Mark 15:23) or oil (Luke 10:34) could be mixed in for medicinal purposes. It was common for the Romans to mix their wine with water, but Isaiah 1:22 indicates that the Jews considered mixing water into the wine as a sign of economic trouble and God’s judgment. The wealthy could afford to drink more wine, but common people would normally drink water with wine reserved for special occasions and celebrations.

The process of making wine was simple enough. In Judah and Israel the grapes would ripen in August and September. These would be gathered and placed into wine presses in which they would be crushed. The juice would flow out a channel into a vat or collected into other containers for storage. The first portion to flow out was often called “new wine,” and it was superior to the wine pressed later with the grape skins and stems from the first pressing or what would remain in the press. Since yeast naturally spreads by wind, everything gets contaminated by it. It is part of the “bloom” on grapes. Fruit can begin fermenting even before its juices are pressed out. In a warm climate, the pressed out juice begin to ferment rapidly.

Some writers try to prove that the ancients had developed ways to stop or at least slow down the fermentation process. This is done so that they can argue that the Bible is against drinking any thing with alcohol in it except for medicinal purposes. However, even with such processes existing and used by some, it did not dominate the culture. The indication of archeology, the meanings of the various words used, and the descriptions in the Scriptures is that wine in its various forms was capable of making a person intoxicated. It would take less aged wine than new wine to make a person drunk, but all of it would have some content of alcohol. These facts are against those that argue that Jesus’ first miracle at the wedding in Cana of Galilee was turning the water into grape juice instead of wine. The word used in John 2:9 is οἶνος / oinos, the common word for wine, not ναματος / nomatos or αἷμα / haima, the Greek words which could be used for juice, nor is it γλευκος / gleukos, which would be a sweet wine of low alcoholic content. In addition, John 2:10 indicates that the headwaiter expected the “good” wine to have some intoxicating effect since the “poorer” wine normally served later would then be more readily accepted.

### **Biblical Use of Wine**

There are many positive references to wine in the Scriptures. I have already mentioned that it had medicinal uses. Paul recommended a little wine to Timothy for his stomach (1 Timothy 5:23) and it was used to dress wounds (Luke 10:34). Alcohol still does have many medicinal uses whether taken as an ingredient in a medicine, or in the form of an alcoholic beverage. In the Scriptures, wine is also used to represent both material and divine blessing, part of the hope for the Messianic age to come, and it is used in the worship of God. Let’s quickly look at some of these.

We will start with the idea of blessing found in Proverbs 3:5-10, *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones. Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce; So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.”* Economic prosperity begins by learning to trust and walk with the Lord. Here, that prosperity is represented in a bountiful harvest that fills up the barns and yields vats overflowing with new wine (שורית / tirosh). This same idea is seen in other passages.

In Genesis 27:28, Isaac’s blessing on Jacob included *“Now may God give you the dew of heaven, And the fatness of the earth, And an abundance of grain and new wine”* (שורית / tirosh). A similar blessing was given by Jacob to Judah in Genesis 49:11&12, *“He ties his foal to the vine, And his donkey’s colt to the choice vine; He washes his garments in wine, And his robes in the blood of grapes. His eyes are dull from wine”* (יַיִן / yayin), *And his teeth white from milk.”* This blessing was that Judah would have such an abundance that he not only had plenty of wine to consume, but could wash his cloths in it and not even be concerned about damaging the vines by tying his animals up to them.

A bountiful harvest including an abundance of new wine was part of God’s promise of reward to the nation of Israel if they would obey Him (Deuteronomy 7:13; 11:14). In the Song of Moses in Deuteronomy 32, having plenty of wine (חֶמֶר / chemer) to drink was part of God’s blessing on Jacob and his children (verse 14). The blessing of Moses in Deuteronomy 33 included that they would be in a land of grain and new wine (שורית / tirosh) (vs. 28). Throughout Israel’s history, an abundance of wine (יַיִן / yayin) indicated the Lord’s blessing of prosperity (1 Chronicles 9:29; 27:27; 2 Chronicles 23:28), and a lack of it was the Lord’s

judgment (Deuteronomy 28:39; Lamentations 2:12; Micah 6:15).

These same images are used to describe the blessing in the future Messianic kingdom. Joel 2:19 speaks of the future restoration, *"The LORD will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I am going to send you grain, new wine (שׁוּרִית / tirosh) and oil, And you will be satisfied in full with them; And I will never again make you a reproach among the nations."* Amos 9:13-14 speak of a sustained abundance, *"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "When the plowman will overtake the reaper And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; When the mountains will drip sweet wine (סִיקָץ / asis) And all the hills will be dissolved. "Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them; They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine (יַיִן / yayin), And make gardens and eat their fruit."* The abundance here is so great that they cannot even complete the harvest before they start plowing and planting for the next season.

Another indicator of God's approval of the proper use of wine is its presence as a blessing in daily life and use in various celebrations. Psalm 104:14-15 speaks of God's provision for man. *"He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for the labor of man, So that he may bring forth food from the earth, And wine (יַיִן / yayin) which makes man's heart glad, So that he may make his face glisten with oil, And food which sustains man's heart."*

In Deuteronomy 12:15-18, the tithe of harvest including the grain, new wine, oil and animals was to be eaten in the Lord's presence in the place that He chose. Deuteronomy 14:23-26 adds a very interesting footnote. If the tithe had to be exchanged for money because of distance, the money was then to be brought to the place the Lord chose and there they were to *"spend the money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen, or sheep, or wine (יַיִן / yayin), or strong drink, or whatever your heart desires; and there you shall eat in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice, you and your household."* Part of their worship of God included drinking wine (יַיִן / yayin) or strong drink (שֶׁכָּר / shekar) as they decided. The Feast of Booths was celebrated with what had been gathered from their threshing floor and wine vat (יֶקֶב / Yeqeb) (Deuteronomy 15:12-14).

The worship of God also included offerings of wine and also strong drink. In Exodus 29:40 a libation of wine (יַיִן / yayin) was included in the offerings to consecrate the altar. A similar offering including a libation of wine (יַיִן / yayin) was to be made after Israel had entered the land and began to reap harvests within it (Leviticus 23:13,18). Numbers 15:5,7,10 gives the different amounts of wine (יַיִן / yayin) to be used in the libation offerings. Numbers 28:7 includes pouring out a libation of strong drink (שֶׁכָּר / shekar) to the Lord.

Jesus' approval of the proper use of wine is seen in many passages. His miracle of turning the water into wine at the wedding celebration in Cana of Galilee recorded in John 2 has already been mentioned. Matthew 11:18,19 records Jesus' response to the accusations made against Him. *"For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon!'" "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."* Their charge was based on the fact that Jesus did come eating and drinking in contrast to John who abstained.

Matthew 26:27, Mark 14:23 and Luke 22:20 all record that Jesus told His disciples at the Last Supper: *"But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."* What is this "fruit of the vine." From what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:19-34 correcting their improper practice concerning the Lord's Supper, the drink was fermented because some were getting drunk on it. Historically, until 1869 when Dr. Thomas Welch invented a way to bottle grape juice without it fermenting, what has been served in Christian churches for communion has been wine. More importantly, Isaiah 25:6-9 gives a description of a banquet the Lord will give in that future kingdom, and what is served includes "aged wine" (שֶׁמֶר / shemer). *"And the Lord of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, [And] refined, aged wine. 7 And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, Even the veil which*

*is stretched over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken. 9 And it will be said in that day, "Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."*

Finally, as pointed out at the beginning of the sermon, the positive view of wine (יַיִן / yayin) is seen in its use in Proverbs 9:1-5 in the figurative call of wisdom to the naive to come and dine at her table and partake of the wine she has mixed.

Those who want to condemn all consumption of wine (fermented fruit juice) as a beverage are in conflict with what God's Word says about the subject. Those that are believers will be surprised when it is served by the Lord in the Millennial Kingdom. However, in their defense, the Bible presents some good reasons for abstinence from wine whether on a temporary or permanent basis. The Bible also gives very strong warnings about the abuse of wine. These warnings are serious and need to be taken to heart otherwise you will prove yourself to be a fool. We will first look at the positive reasons for abstinence and then at the dangers of drinking.

### **The Value of Abstinence**

Numbers 6 lists the vows taken by a Nazirite in dedicating himself to the Lord. Included in those vows was not only abstinence from wine, but from grapes and anything related to them. The Nazirite was not more holy because of his abstinence, but rather the abstinence was just one of many outward signs of what made him holy - a serious dedication to the Lord in all things. The Nazirite would deny himself what others could freely do in order to be more focused on serving the Lord. The principle here is the same as in any fast.

Leviticus 10:8-11 records that the priests were under a perpetual command to abstain from wine and strong drink when they were serving in the tent of meeting, or later in the Temple. It was to make a distinction between the holy and the profane and between what is clean and unclean. It may also have been to prevent them from the irreverence that led to the deaths of Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:1-7). The context suggests they may have been drunk. The priests could drink wine and strong drink at other times.

As already pointed out, the qualifications listed by Paul for an Elder and a Deacon in 1 Timothy 3 include restrictions on wine. Elders are not to be παροινος / paroinos, one who is beside or alongside wine, "one who sits long at his wine" (Thayer). The term was also used for a person who habitually drinks too much (LN). Deacons are not to be given to much wine (μη οἶνω πολλῷ προσέχοντας). The phrase is similar in meaning. Both can have wine, the Deacon more than the Elder, but neither are to have an addiction or quest for it. Wine is not to be important to them. Why is this important? Two reasons.

The first is what I mentioned earlier in explaining Romans 14. A church leader must be careful about his example lest someone use it to justify what would be sin for them to do. Voluntary abstinence is an aspect of loving others more than self.

The second reason is seen in the caution given to King Lemuel in Proverbs 31:4-5, "It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Or for rulers to desire strong drink, for they will drink and forget what is decreed, And pervert the rights of all the afflicted." This principle needs to be taken to heart by anyone in any position of authority, and even more so to those that profess to be followers of the Lord Jesus. This would apply not only to Elders in the church, but frankly, to fathers and mothers in their homes as they deal with one another and their children. This is just one of the many dangers of drinking and why there needs to be such caution.

### **Dangers of Drinking**

The dangers of drinking begin with its very character as described by Proverbs 20:1, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise." The character of wine is shown it is personification as a mocker, a scoffer. This is someone who speaks without respect to others, makes fun of others, and is arrogant in the process for mockers are proud, haughty, recalcitrant, resistant to reproof, and

so are eluded by wisdom and knowledge (Proverbs 9:7,8; 13:1; 14:6; 21:24). Wine offers happiness, bliss and escape from trouble, but as anyone ever affected by an alcoholic knows, what it brings instead is increased trouble, profound sadness, and extreme misery. Wine is a mocker. Strong drink, beer, is a brawler. It is loud, noisy and tumultuous due to the unrest and commotion it brings. Those who are intoxicated, who stagger due to the influence of either, are lead astray. They are “not wise.” A litotes meaning - such a person is a fool. The other statements in Proverbs expand on these characteristics.

Proverbs 21:17 shows the mocking character of wine. *“He who loves pleasure will become a poor man; He who loves wine and oil will not become rich.”* Wine promises pleasure, but those who love it will instead find poverty and no pleasure. Proverbs 23:20–21 also warn about this result, *“Do not be with heavy drinkers of wine, Or with gluttonous eaters of meat; For the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe one with rags.”*

This mocking and brawling character is also seen in Proverbs 23:29–35 which also describes the person who is influenced by the alcohol, *“Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long over wine, Those who go to taste mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it goes down smoothly; At the last it bites like a serpent And stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things And your mind will utter perverse things. And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea, Or like one who lies down on the top of a mast. “They struck me, but I did not become ill; They beat me, but I did not know it. When shall I awake? I will seek another drink.”*

The wine looks inviting in the glass, but in the end it is a snake, a viper that poisons you and brings woe, sorrow, contention, complaining and injury from unknown causes. Why are they unknown? Because the person was too drunk to remember what happened whether it was staggering into something by accident or being beat up by someone else. The eyes can turn red for two reasons. Dilation of the blood vessels from the alcohol, or lack of sleep from staying up late to drink, but still having to get up in the morning to go to work. There is loss of control of the mind resulting in hallucinations and perversity. The sad part is the end of verse 35. Though drinking results in so much suffering, the person seeks another drink when they awake from being drunk.

These various verses demonstrate that indulgence in alcohol causes all sorts of fiscal, physical and relational problems: Declining finances even to the point of poverty; Injury from accidents and fights; health issues minor and major extending up to death from cirrhosis of the liver; declining mental health from the alcohol killing brain cells resulting in forgetfulness and decreased ability to reason; hallucinations; strained and broken relationships; and increased perversity and sin. The Bible is full of examples of people experiencing these kinds of problems because of drinking including Noah and Lot who did not intend to get drunk (Genesis 9; 19). Galatians 5:21 lists drunkenness as one of the deeds of the flesh along with carousing, immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, strife and more. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 includes drunkards along with fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, homosexuals, thieves, the covetous, revilers and swindlers as those who will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Most alcoholics don’t think they have a problem. It is only someone else with a more serious problem that is the true alcoholic. I will concede there are different levels of alcoholism. The most serious are those that are nearing the end of their life due to their addiction. Just below them are those who have serious health problems or have already lost their family, job or both because of drinking. Just below that are those who are developing health problems or have strained relationships or are missing work because they are drunk so often. Below that are those who are only drunk occasionally. Then there are those that rarely if ever get drunk to the point of stupor, but they need a drink in order to relax, unwind or go to sleep. You see, regardless of the level of alcoholism, all alcoholics have the same root problem. They want a drink to help them cope with life. An insight into this is given in the Proverbs 31:6-7. *“Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to him whose life is bitter. Let him drink and forget his poverty And remember his trouble no more.”* As already pointed out, drinking will not solve any earthly problem. It will only

compound them by putting off dealing with them to another time. Only their death will put an end to their earthly troubles, but that is the beginning of their eternal ones.

Is there hope for such people? Yes, but it is not going to be from Alcoholics Anonymous. They can help a person stop drinking and remain dry, but their own philosophy is that an alcoholic is not cured, just sober no matter how many years it has been since the last drink was taken. Help is not going to come from the psychological community either. They treat alcoholism under the delusion that it is a disease. For that reason, even if there is success in getting a person to stop drinking, the other problems are still around and the real problem is not even addressed. That real problem is sin. The only true hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ. After listing in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 many of the sins that will block a person from inheriting the kingdom of heaven including drunkenness, the apostle Paul then points out the solution to the problem. *"Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."* Only God through the work of Jesus Christ and the power of His Spirit can change a person internally so that they are no longer what they were. The drunk is not just sober, but converted to become a new creation in Jesus Christ. Only Jesus can take care of the condemnation of sin. Only the Holy Spirit can change the person internally and give them new desires.

As I pointed out in the sermon last week, it all comes down to what you desire. Is your desire to live for the glory of God as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ? Or are you still controlled by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life? Are you living with eternity in view, or just the present moment? Drinking does not solve any problems. It only puts off the old ones while creating new ones.

## Conclusions

I do not know everyone here well, and I do not know at all the many that will be reading or hearing this sermon on our website. I do know that there are those present that do have some problems with alcohol to a greater or lesser degree. For that reason, I want to be both careful and forthright in concluding this sermon. I neither want to justify anyone in their sin nor call something sin that God does not call sin. I do want to echo the serious warnings the Bible gives.

If you enjoy a glass of wine or a beer and it has no control over you, then praise the Lord and give thanks as 1 Timothy 4:1-5 directs you to do. That is the teaching of the Scriptures. Just be mindful and cautious of your possible influence on others by your example.

If you have developed a taste for hard liquor, then understand first that the positive things said in the Scriptures about wine and strong drink (beer) do not apply, for drinks with such high alcohol content are not mentioned. Second, take the Biblical warnings about wine and multiply them for it only takes a small amount of liquor or spirits to bring you under their influence. You are playing with fire and you will get burned. If it truly is just the flavors you desire, then use them in cooking where the alcohol is cooked out or warm them to 173°F and boil off the alcohol. If it is the feeling the alcohol gives you, then you are already heading in the direction of it becoming a controlling influence upon you. You are in very dangerous territory.

If you get drunk, whether frequently or rarely, then you have a serious problem that you need to admit. Drunkenness is sin. If you manage to keep from getting drunk, but desire the feeling a drink gives you, then again, you are heading in the wrong direction of it becoming a controlling influence on you. If you need a drink to relax or go to sleep, then it already is a controlling influence on you.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 6:12, *"All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything."* Even if you have freedom to drink, do not let it become your master. Paul said in Ephesians 5:16, *"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit."* Do not allow yourself to be under the control of anything except the Holy Spirit in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is time to put off the old man and put on the new as commanded in Colossians 3. You need to walk in a manner worthy of your calling instead of still walking in the ways of this world. As Paul said in Romans 12:2 - *"do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and*

perfect.”

If you have any problem with drinking, whether great or small, don't let it continue. Take advantage of the help available within the body of Christ and talk to me or any of our church leaders and let us help you to begin to walk away from its slavery and into the freedom from sin we can have in our Lord Jesus Christ.

DBL = *The Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Hebrew* by James A. Swanson

LN = *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament based on Semantic Domains* by Johannes Louw & Eugene Nida (Louw-Nida)

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**Sermon Notes - 1/13/2013**  
**Proverbs on Wine & Drinking**

**Introduction**

Proverbs 9:1-5 - Wine is associated with \_\_\_\_\_.

Proverbs 20:1 - Wine is dangerous and getting drunk is \_\_\_\_\_.

We do not desire to be either legalistic or \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_, I am a teetotaler because I do not care for the taste & smell of alcoholic beverages

By conviction, I am a teetotaler for I do not wish to cause a weaker brother or sister to \_\_\_\_\_ into sin

**Definitions**

Wine = יַיִן / yayin and Οἶνος / oinos = “a \_\_\_\_\_ beverage made from the juice of grapes”

New or \_\_\_\_\_ wine = שׁוֹרֵיט / tirosh

חֶמֶר / chemer refers to the \_\_\_\_\_ produced in the process of fermentation - any wine in process

Sweet wine = סִיקָע / asis and γλευκος / gleukos = partially fermented wine with high \_\_\_\_\_ content

\_\_\_\_\_ wine = שֶׁמֶר / shemer - fully fermented

Strong drink = שֶׁכָּר / shekar and σίκερα / sikera = “intoxicating beverages made from \_\_\_\_\_”

Natural fermentation: \_\_\_\_\_. Controlled fermentation: up to ~20%. Distilled liquor / Spirits: 35-95%

Mixed wines - with other wines or \_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 1:22 - mixing with water considered sign of judgment)

Fruits and their juice ferment naturally because of \_\_\_\_\_ - and rapidly in warm climates

John 2: Jesus turned the water in to wine (Οἶνος / oinos), not juice or sweet wine. It was \_\_\_\_\_

**Biblical Use of Wine**

\_\_\_\_\_ uses - 1 Timothy 5:23; Luke 10:34

A sign of \_\_\_\_\_ & prosperity - Prov. 3:5-10; Gen. 27:28; 49:11-12; Deut. 7:13; 1 Chron. 9:29; 27:27

A sign of the blessings of the \_\_\_\_\_ Messianic Kingdom - Joel 2:19; Amos 9:13-14

Used in daily life and in \_\_\_\_\_ - Psalm 104:14-15; Deut. 12:15-18; 14:23-26; 15:12-14

Used in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (libation / drink offering) - Ex. 29:4; Lev. 23:13, 18; Numb. 15:5,7,10; 28:7

\_\_\_\_\_ drank wine - Matthew 11:18-19

Jesus will drink it again in His future \_\_\_\_\_: Matt. 26:27; cf. 1 Cor. 11:19-34; Isaiah 25:6-9

Used as a \_\_\_\_\_ metaphor in wisdom's invitation - Proverbs 9:1-5

**The Value of Abstinence**

Numbers 6 - the \_\_\_\_\_ vows in dedicating themselves to the Lord

Leviticus 10:8-11 - \_\_\_\_\_ prohibited while service to distinguish between holy and profane  
1 Timothy 3:3, 8 - \_\_\_\_\_ usage for Elders and Deacons in caution of influence (Romans 14),  
Proverbs 31:4-5 - Avoid danger of making bad decisions because of wine's \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Dangers of Drinking**

Proverbs 20:1 - wine is a \_\_\_\_\_ / scoffer - disrespectful, makes fun of others, haughty, arrogant

Wine offers escape from trouble, happiness and bliss, but brings trouble, sadness and \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 20:1 - strong drink is a \_\_\_\_\_ - loud, noisy, tumultuous, often resulting in injury

Proverbs 21:17; 23:20-12 - Wine promises pleasure, but produces \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 23:29-35 - wine is looks inviting in the glass, but in the end it is a snake bringing \_\_\_\_\_

Alcohol produces \_\_\_\_\_, physical and relational problems

Galatians 5:12 - drunkenness is a deed of the \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 - Drunkards \_\_\_\_\_ inherit the kingdom of God

Regardless of level, few alcoholics recognize their \_\_\_\_\_ - all seek it to cope with life Prov. 31:6-7

Alcoholics Anonymous and psychologists can help stop drinking, but they can't \_\_\_\_\_ the problem

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 - Jesus washes, sanctifies and justifies from \_\_\_\_\_

Drinking does not solve any problems, it only puts off old ones while \_\_\_\_\_ new ones

### **Conclusions**

If you enjoy a glass of wine or beer - rejoice and \_\_\_\_\_ to God - 1 Timothy 5:1-5

If you have a taste for hard liquor - take the alcohol out of it or you are in very \_\_\_\_\_ territory

If you get drunk, whether frequently or rarely - there is a \_\_\_\_\_ problem

If you are controlled by drinking in any way - need it to relax / sleep - there is a \_\_\_\_\_ - 1 Cor. 6:12

Eph. 5:16 - be controlled by the Holy Spirit. But on the new man (Col. 3). Be \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 12)

### **KIDS CORNER**

**Young Children** - draw a picture about something you hear during the sermon. Explain your picture(s) to your parents at lunch. **Older Children** - Do one or more of the following: 1) Count how many times the word "wine" is said. 2) Discuss with your parents the dangers of alcoholic beverages and how to avoid them.

### **THINK ABOUT IT!**

Questions to consider in discussing the sermon with others. What is your taste preference regarding alcoholic beverages? Why? What influence do your practices have on others (Romans 14)? Define each of the following according to their Biblical usage: Wine, new wine, sweet wine, aged wine, "strong drink". What is the process

of fermentation? How do liquors and spirits differ from wine and beer? What is the range of alcohol content in each? Did Jesus make wine or grape juice in John 2? Explain. What are some of the medicinal uses of alcohol? How are the various kinds of wine used in the Bible to represent blessings in ancient Israel? In the present time? In the future Messianic Kingdom? What kind of wines will the Lord serve then (Isaiah 25:6-9)? How was wine used in the worship of God? What was the purpose of the Nazirite vows in Numbers 6? Why did they include abstinence from wine? Why were the priests prohibited from wine and strong drink when serving in the Tabernacle / Temple (Leviticus 10)? Why are restrictions placed on Elders and Deacons in regard to drinking wine (1 Timothy 3)? Why was King Lemuel warned not to drink wine or strong drink (Proverbs 31)? How is wine a “mockery”? How is beer a “brawler”? What are the dangers of wine as explained in Proverbs 23:29–35? What effect does drinking have on finances? Health? Relationships? Explain. What is the basis of drunkenness according to Galatians 5:21? According to 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, what is the eternal danger of drunkenness? What is the common problem in all levels of alcoholism? What hope is there for the alcoholic? (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Explain. How does your desire to walk with and serve the Lord compare with the desire to please your flesh, eyes and pride? What should you do if you enjoy a glass of beer or wine? What should you do if you have developed a taste for hard liquor? What should you do if you get drunk even if only occasionally? What should you do if alcohol has a controlling influence on you - even if it is just to relax or be able to sleep (1 Corinthians 6:12)? What should control you (Eph. 5:16)? What is your responsibility in pursuing godliness (Colossians 3; Romans 12:1-2).