

God's People & The Liquor Industry

What Is Our Contribution?

Introduction

- A. Why have so many attempted to discredit/destroy the Bible?
- B. Presents a challenge...a rule of life...must be followed to please God
 - 1) **2 Ti. 4:1-5** – A challenge to the hearer & messenger
 - 2) No preacher is the judge, but a messenger telling all who will hear what the judge has said.
- C. How will you choose to hear God's word this evening?
- D. Circumstances, tradition, and familiarity can often impede our ability to accurately reason
- E. A promise....Jn. 12:48...Tonight, as always, I will stick to the word.
- F. Step back, see the big picture & eternity looming on the horizon

1. What Is Our Contribution Through Consumption??

- A. Getting a Biblical picture of strong drink:
 - Pr. 20:1; Pr. 23:20-21; Pr. 23:29-35; Is. 5:11; Ep. 5:18**
- B. Moderation?
 - 1) "Moderate use is acceptable."
 - 2) How do we define, "moderation?"
 - a) How do we define what "drunk" is? Ask 1,000 people, receive 1,000 different opinions.
 - i. Do we go by state B.A.C.? AL (.08) vs. TN (.10) – Hop over state line!!
 - ii. One drink = one drink drunk (med. evidence proves immediate effects)
 - iii. Use is abuse! Intoxication
 - b) Phenomenon with 1920's Moonshiners @ Lost Sea cave
 - 3) **Ro. 13:13** – other sins listed okay if done in "moderation"?
- C. Strong drink as "anti-Christian" as it gets
 - 1) "Fruit of the Spirit" includes self control (**2 Pe. 1:5-11**)
 - 2) Control of one's speech & actions are first to leave (cf. Mel Gibson)
 - 3) Use of this drug will send your soul to Hell (**1 Co. 6:10**) – "Drink responsibly"??????

2. What Is Our Contribution Through Distribution?

- A. Direct condemnation
 - 1) **Hab. 2:15-16** – "Woe" if we contribute to our neighbor's unrighteousness.
 - a) Violates "golden rule"
 - b) WWJD? Water to wine @ Cana?? Not intoxicating, otherwise He sinned
 - 2) **Pr. 16:29** – Leading others to ways that are not good = violence
- B. It is undeniable that if alcoholic beverage were not made, there could be no misuse of it!
 - 1) "Someone has to make it." – Really? Why?
 - 2) Liquor sanctioned by government, Christians ought to do everything they can to rid this land of its production and consumption.
 - a) How many souls have been condemned at the expense of strong drink?
 - b) How many homes destroyed?
 - c) A factor in 64% of all murders, 30% of suicides, 50% of traffic fatalities
 - 3) How are we contributing to this issue?
 - a) Are we acting as peacemakers? (**Mt. 5:9** – "Peacemaker" = overcoming evil w/ good)
 - b) Are we acting as strife-makers? (cf. **Pr. 23:29**)
- C. Destroys influence
 - 1) **Ro. 14:13** – stumbling, literally & in all areas of life
 - 2) **1 Th. 5:22** – we teach our children "abstinence," but do **WE** understand it?
 - 3) **Mt. 5:13-16** – salt (flavoring/preserving influence); light (illuminate *the way* unto life)
 - a) (**v. 16**) – What do others see when they look at your works?
 - b) Good works will bring glory to God; evil will cause reproach
 - c) Picture holding a Bible in one hand, and a bottle of whiskey in another...
 - i. Can we do this and **NOT** send a mixed message?
 - ii. If our life contains anything which hinders the cause of Christ, what should we do about it?
 - iii. **Mt. 10:34-39** – Will we be found worthy?
 - iv. **Lu. 14:33** – "Who Will Follow Jesus?"