

Total Abstinence From Alcohol Part 3

The bad effects of alcohol include the following:

1. It is a sin because the person who drink is liable to do lot of wrong things like wrong decisions, giving wrong advices, cause accident, commit sexual immoralities, fights, murder, etc.

2. It is a bad stewardship, for drinking costs lot of money to be spent on alcoholic drinks. I do remember one time while I was giving a Bible study to someone who is use to drink, I was led to ask him how much he spent monthly on the drink. He started to calculate to give me an answer, and then he told me, ‘Oh yes, it is a big amount’, ‘Why it did not come to my mind to stop it in order to save’, and from that meeting he decided to stop drinking alcohol so he will be able to manage his finances in a better way.

3. It is harmful to the physical wellbeing of the person. Alcohol is one of the causes of chronic liver disease, liver cirrhosis, and liver failure, which ultimately a fatal condition.

4. Alcohol is a cause of family and marital troubles and breakdown.

5. Alcohol it makes the person liable to death. Fatal car accidents happen to those who are fall drunk. There are Scriptures that show us murders had taken place when the person was drunk, because the persons who are drunk are unable to protect themselves. ***“28 Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant. 29 And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.”*** (2 Samuel 13:28-29 KJV) ***“8 In the twenty and sixth year of Asa king of Judah began Elah the son of Baasha to reign over Israel in Tirzah, two years. 9 And his servant Zimri, captain of half his chariots, conspired against him, as he was in Tirzah, drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza steward of his house in Tirzah. 10 And Zimri went in and smote him, and killed him, in the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his stead.”*** (1 Kings 9:8-10 KJV)

Inspite of all the above brief description of the bad effects of alcohol, and you may add other bad effects of it more than what we described before in the previous parts, but then you may still find people use Scriptures to support drinking of alcohol, as in the following examples:

1. ***“3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;”*** (1 Timothy 3:3 KJV) Not given to wine does not necessary means that the person is not drinking alcohol or in total abstinent of it.

2. ***“8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;”*** (1 Timothy 3:8 KJV) Here the Word of God tells us that the deacons need to be, not given to much wine, which means clearly that he can drink moderately, but we know in practical life and ministry we cannot decide or tell how much the amount that each individual can drink to go on what God’s Word meant with, ***“not given to much wine”***.

3. ***“3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false***

accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;” (Titus 2:3 KJV) Here speaks about aged woman the same, ***“not given to much wine”***, and we can say about it as we spoke in the previous point, that we cannot calculate precisely how much this, not given to much wine, from a person to another.

Now we can see clearly even if there is a Word of God but to put that into practice and allow drinking, it is not possible and cannot be done in reality. It perhaps only possible if the person is so sensitive and controlled by the Holy Spirit that he or she is going to comply with and stop immediately when the amount reached to the upper determined level. Perhaps Paul in writing this Word of God that was what he meant with. But again if someone would ask Paul about the amount that he would recommend for each of these Scriptures and for the various persons he would most likely apologize and give no answer and so it will end up into total abstinence of alcohol.

Now when we as a church announce, declare and implement total abstinence from alcohol, the purpose is clear because we don’t know how much the safe amount that each individual can take without being harmed, and so in such we protect every individual, to avoid the various troubles of alcohol, to prevent addiction, and to keep safe those who do not drink.

Now to those who drink and say we use it as medicine and use this Scripture: ***“23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.”*** (1 Timothy 5:23 KJV) What I used to say to them, if you have a prescription from a doctor that contain it as medicine with the amount needed, and if there is nothing to replace it then let me know. No one ever brought to me such prescription from any doctor until this day.

Let us now read the story of the lives of the Rechabites and how they dealt with wine: ***“1 The word which came unto Jeremiah from the LORD in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, saying, 2 Go unto the house of the Rechabites, and speak unto them, and bring them into the house of the LORD, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink. 3 Then I took Jaazaniah the son of Jeremiah, the son of Habaziniah, and his brethren, and all his sons, and the whole house of the Rechabites; 4 And I brought them into the house of the LORD, into the chamber of the sons of Hanan, the son of Igdaiah, a man of God, which was by the chamber of the princes, which was above the chamber of Maaseiah the son of Shallum, the keeper of the door: 5 And I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites pots full of wine, and cups, and I said unto them, Drink ye wine. 6 But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever: 7 Neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard, nor have any: but all your days ye shall dwell in tents; that ye may live many days in the land where ye be strangers. 8 Thus have we obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab our father in all that he hath charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, nor our daughters; 9 Nor to build houses for us to dwell in: neither have we vineyard, nor field, nor seed: 10 But we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed, and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us. 11 But it came to pass, when Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon came up into the land, that we said, Come, and let us go to Jerusalem for fear of the army of the Chaldeans, and for fear of the army of the Syrians: so we dwell at Jerusalem. 12 Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah, saying, 13 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Go and tell the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Will ye not receive instruction to hearken to my words? saith the LORD. 14 The words of Jonadab the***

son of Rechab, that he commanded his sons not to drink wine, are performed; for unto this day they drink none, but obey their father's commandment: notwithstanding I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye hearkened not unto me. 15 I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me. 16 Because the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have performed the commandment of their father, which he commanded them; but this people hath not hearkened unto me: 17 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring upon Judah and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the evil that I have pronounced against them: because I have spoken unto them, but they have not heard; and I have called unto them, but they have not answered. 18 And Jeremiah said unto the house of the Rechabites, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Because ye have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab your father, and kept all his precepts, and done according unto all that he hath commanded you: 19 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not want a man to stand before me for ever.” (Jeremiah 35:1-18 KJV)

Here in the life of the Rechabites were commanded by their father to live in such a manner that he commanded them to live and observe certain style as they testified the following: *“6 But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever: 7 Neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard, nor have any: but all your days ye shall dwell in tents; that ye may live many days in the land where ye be strangers. 8 Thus have we obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab our father in all that he hath charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, nor our daughters; 9 Nor to build houses for us to dwell in: neither have we vineyard, nor field, nor seed: 10 But we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed, and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us.” (Jeremiah 35:6-10 KJV)* Their father had commanded them not to drink wine, nor to build houses, nor to sow seed, nor to plant vineyard, nor to have any of such, but to live in tents in order for them to live many days in the land of the Israelites, where they were strangers.

Now here I am not going to discuss why he commanded them with all such that they needed to do for many of their generations to come, but here I am going to tell the following:

First, he commanded them to do all that for their own wellbeing and benefits.

Second, they honored and obeyed the instructions of their father even after many years of his death and that became their tradition.

Third, God Himself honored the instruction of Jonadab the son of Rechab to his family and people, not to drink wine as we read here, *“14 The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, that he commanded his sons not to drink wine, are performed; for unto this day they drink none, but obey their father's commandment: notwithstanding I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye hearkened not unto me.” (Jeremiah 35:14 KJV)*

Forth, God commended the obedience of the Rechabites to the instruction of their father not to drink wine which they did for their own good and benefit, and He used that to admonish the

Israelites and to rebuke them for their reluctance to obey His Word that He was speaking to them and their non respond to God’s servant, the prophets, that He repeatedly was sending to them.

Fifth, now when we as church make a stand and proclaim it that we recommend total abstinence from alcohol, we are aware of the following Scripture: *1 Timothy 3:3, 1 Timothy 3:8, Titus 2:3* and *1 Timothy 5:23*, that we discussed in this message, and we are not disobeying God’s Word in taking such a decision and stand and we are not restricting your freedom and privileges, but we care for everyone and we do all what we can to protect everyone from any possible danger and the bad effects and the sin of drinking alcohol.

Sixth, God is with us and agreed with us in such decision because our aim is for you to live many days in God’s presence, filled with the Holy Spirit and not with wine in obedience to God’s command, *“18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:18 KJV)*, and so later on is to spend eternity with God and forever.

Seventh, God after such an arrangement from the church for total abstinence from alcohol God shall call you accountable if you go and drink, because in such you are sinning against your own health and body, sinning against others by giving a bad example to follow in encouraging them to drink alcohol, and sinning against the church that working to protect each and every individual and promote holiness and safety for all, and in all such disharmony that you are creating you are sinning ultimately against God, and so He will finally judge you for that if you will not repent.

My Dear and Beloved: “1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.” (Proverbs 20:1 KJV) Do not be deceived any more with wine or alcohol. Today as you hear His Word God wants you to be wise, to be willing to come out from drinking alcohol, and shun wine. God wants you to be His noble vessel to fill you with the Holy Spirit so that you can go on and serve Him. God wants you to be a good testimony to others so they can see in you a good example that they can follow.

Come out of all your sins and renounce them, start to live in holiness, change your atmosphere, move away from bad friends who influence you and cause you to drink. Give your life to Jesus, open your heart to Him, surrender your will fully to Him, and commit yourself to serve Him, to live His will and to do and finish His works.

Let us pray . . .

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and was buried and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the teaching that we received in this message. Thank you for your love and your care for me and thank you for all the good things that you provided for me to live my life for you. Lord thank you for all the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received in this message.

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your stubbornness and your delay obedience. Confess and renounce your worldliness, and your love for material things. Confess and renounce your drinking alcohol and your addiction on it. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers and in bondage with many friends, the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your lust and immoralities. Confess and

renounce doing your own will and plan. Confess and renounce being bad example and your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to totally abstain from alcohol and I commit myself to be a good example and a good testimony to others to follow you. Lord fill me once again with the Holy Spirit and give me the spiritual gifts that I need to go and serve you. I commit myself to instruct and to teach against drinking alcohol. Lord I commit myself to live according to your plan and to your will.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of the sin of drinking alcohol and committed themselves to go on and serve you, Lord protect them and provide for them and make their lives good example to others to follow and use them to evangelize and to spread your Word to those who are lost.

Lord bless us as your church and fill us once again with the Holy Spirit to go and spread your Word and to proclaim your will in full in pertain to total abstinence from alcoholism. Lord lead us to reach new people and new places with the gospel of Jesus. Lord enables us to plant new Bible studies and more congregations in various places. Lord we pray for more people to be water baptized and to receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God'. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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