

## Wine in the Bible Let Us Call Thee Devil Study Pac 1

**O, thou invisible of spirit of wine, if thou hast no name to be known by, let us call thee, devil! ... that men should put an enemy in their mouths to steal away their brains! That we should with joy, pleasure, revel, and applause transform ourselves into beasts.**

*Shakespeare, Spoken part of Michael Cassio, Othello,  
2.3: 282, 283, 290-291*

We know he is not Bible, but that quote gives us a perspective of the world and what the world would have to say concerning wine, “Let us call thee, devil.” That’s the title of our course.

I have taken some research done by Dr. Ivan Peterson. You might know him as Pete Peterson, who’s been in this church. He does things on spiritual warfare. He wrote his thesis, I believe, at Trinity (I believe is the school) on this and a lot of the research I am using is from that. So I want to give him credit.

1. Shakespeare, in his play *Othello*, suggests that wine (intoxicating beverage) should be called \_\_\_\_\_.

We are going to cover a lot of areas, but first of all,

Does this subject merit a sermon or college lecture? Would you preach this in your church?

What does the Bible say about it?

Does Scripture teach temperance? (Editor's note: Temperance and abstinence are the same thing.)

Should grape juice be used in the Holy Communion or should wine be served at the Lord's Table?

Is alcoholism a social sickness or is it sin?

Would hospital beds be vacant if people abstained?

Would child abuse and wife abuse stop if people abstained?

Would we have to expand prison space?

What about eternal values? Can alcohol keep you from getting rewards in heaven?

Can alcohol be drunk for the glory of God?

Does alcohol have an effect on our bodies, our physical selves?

2. Alcohol and drug \_\_\_\_\_ centers are doing much in explaining the dangers of intoxicating drink.
3. As Bible believing Christians who are in \_\_\_\_\_ we take this (the Bible) and say this will answer all the questions of your life. This will give you guidance and direction. We are the ones to warn of others of pitfalls.
4. We are the ones to have a \_\_\_\_\_ response, a Biblical \_\_\_\_\_.

That is why we need to study this subject. We need to provide those answers.

5. We have the \_\_\_\_\_ giving these answers. "They spend a lot of time teaching us about drugs. 'Don't take drugs!'"

By the way, do they say you can take only a few drugs but don't overdose? What do they teach about drug use? Isn't that interesting? Why can't we just take a few and just not go overboard? One experiment with a drug hooks you.

6. And I think we could say the same thing for another drug, the \_\_\_\_\_ of alcohol. But the schools are telling the kids that drugs are bad, but hardly anyone says anything about \_\_\_\_\_." It's as if they're telling us it is okay to drink as long as we don't use drugs. So that's the answer the world is giving.

7. As Christians we need to have an answer for this and have a good answer that is going to \_\_\_\_\_ in the mind this question.

8. Our society is very \_\_\_\_\_ about drinking, especially those who are responsible for guiding youth. Principals, parents, teachers, and pastors are reluctant to talk about this. They are not convinced.

I would like to convince you. I would like to convince you of this issue. But that's the problem.

9. Some are militant \_\_\_\_\_ the idea of abstinence. A Presbyterian minister writes: "It would be a mistake, however, to think of the temperance movement as a product of Scripture". He claims it to be a "false teaching" and even "demonic". He uses I Timothy 4. In quoting 1 Tim. 4:1-5 he states: "It is demonic to locate evil in any material thing".

**1 Tim. 4:1-5** Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; <sup>2</sup>Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; <sup>3</sup>Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

10. Now they're not going to read that. That is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- What they're going to read is the 4<sup>th</sup> verse: "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:"

In other words, anything that God makes, it's ok. And that is true in the Scripture. Anything that God makes is ok as long as it is done within the confines of Scripture and his word. Now, how about the grape? Did God create the grape? Did God create the hops or whatever they're going to use to make their beer and liquor? Did God make those things? Yes, he did. So wouldn't we read that everything he made is good and to be received with thanksgiving? How would you answer that? Let's read verse 5.

**<sup>5</sup>For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.**

So if someone says, "You know what, you're kind of off target here if you're preaching that drinking is a sin. If God made this we should be able to enjoy it with thanksgiving." How would you answer that?

(Student answer)

11. What we've done is taken something good, the grape, even the grape juice, and he's right, God did make these things but the process man has gone to has really \_\_\_\_\_ it. What God intended for good we have made for evil. God didn't intend for us to make this (alcoholic beverages) and drink it.

What would you say though within the context? What is the context talking about? Animals and times people are going to come in and say what? What are these people telling, these false prophets, what are they saying here?

(Student answers)

12. The people are saying not to \_\_\_\_\_, not to \_\_\_\_\_.  
Commanding to abstain from eating meat.

Is that Biblical? Why not? Why can't I say, "You shouldn't eat meat"? Because what does the Bible say? The Bible says we can eat meat.

13. Now why would we not include wine, intoxicating wine, to that category of everything that is good? Because it has been corrupted. Because we've taken something good of God and corrupted it by a \_\_\_\_\_.  
A very involved and particular process.

So when a Presbyterian minister says, "Those that think abstinence is a product of Scripture are teaching false teaching and that's demonic" quoting I Timothy 4, we have an answer for that.

14. Strange, is it not, that one who believes the Bible teaches one should abstain is classed as \_\_\_\_\_?

All we do is say, "The Bible is the Word of God. The Bible is the guide of life and we believe the Bible teaches abstinence from alcohol." They label that person as demonic. That's incredible.

15. We must examine the \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture.

16. Before we do that we are going to start with the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

**First, Some things to remember:**

17. We have \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_ (hard) liquor.

These are the three categories of alcohol.

18. Did you know that wine, beer, or distilled liquor all are the same in that they all have \_\_\_\_\_?

19. A \_\_\_\_\_ serving, whether wine, beer or liquor, is going to have the exact same results (in terms of blood content).

20. Some think of beer as a "beverage of \_\_\_\_\_".

Others consider wine less harmful because of its lower alcoholic content. But there is absolutely no reason to consider one kind of alcoholic beverage safer than the other!

21. The \_\_\_\_\_ of alcohol in the blood produced from one 12 oz. bottle of beer is the same as is produced from a high ball made with 3/4 oz. of 100 proof whiskeys or a glass of 3 1/2 ounces of wine.

Whether brewed, fermented, or distilled, alcohol is alcohol. And it is the alcohol (not the other ingredients) in beer, wine and distilled spirits that can \_\_\_\_\_ intoxication and \_\_\_\_\_ behavior.

**Alcohol is a drug.**

22. "Like the sedatives, it is a central nervous system \_\_\_\_\_. As the major psychoactive ingredient in wine, beer and distilled liquor, alcohol is a natural substance formed by the reaction of fermenting sugar with yeast spores".

23. Alcohol is a \_\_\_\_\_.

**The problem is more than cultural.**

24. Some people say that it is a \_\_\_\_\_ issue. It is just an opinion in the United States.

25. France is called a wine drinking country. Wine is often consumed \_\_\_\_\_ the day in moderate amounts.

This drinking style can lead to a constant presence of alcohol in the body. Few may appear to be drunk. There may be no overt signs of intoxication, yet many of the French find themselves unable to abstain from alcohol.

26. There are literally millions of French people who have developed \_\_\_\_\_ without ever getting \_\_\_\_\_.

What is not apparent to the casual observer is that France spends 42% of its total health budget on the treatment of alcohol-related illnesses, that 50% of all the hospital beds in France are occupied by patients suffering from alcoholism.

**ALCOHOL produces alcoholics.**

A woman who lived in the secret hell wrote: "I finally discovered that I had not planned to become an alcoholic when I took my first drink. It's just the way it was. I didn't mean to hurt my family and friends".

27. No one \_\_\_\_\_ to become an alcoholic.

Whether a person is an alcoholic or not, his avoidance of the first drink, may depend on you. How can a minister serve fermented wine to his parishioners at the Lord's Supper when he might be introducing someone to alcoholism or causing an alcoholic to return to his vomit?

28. This is \_\_\_\_\_!

**Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.**

29. The Bible considers the drinking of wine an \_\_\_\_\_ subject.

In the Old Testament alone the word for vineyard is used 94 times; the vine 54 times; grape 18 times; wine 141 times. There are also almost 200 other words related to the vine and its products in Scripture.

30. Any conclusion reached in this course will \_\_\_\_\_ many and even \_\_\_\_\_ some - including the clergy who interpret the Bible by contemporary needs.

An evangelical wrote that this "would be contrary to the Bible for nowhere does the Bible command total abstinence."

In December 1979 Evangelist Billy Graham said, "I do not believe that the Bible teaches teetotalism. Jesus drank wine. Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding feast. That wasn't grape juice as some try to claim." Evangelicals made him rethink his statement. "Don't drink," he said, "it is better for Christians to be teetotalers."

Christianity Today/Gallup Poll found the following:

- One-third of the public are abstainers, but two-thirds of evangelicals are abstainers.
- Just over half of all clergy abstain from alcohol, but better than three-fourths of Evangelical clergy do not.
- Among laymen, Baptists are divided fifty-fifty on using alcohol; Methodists and Lutherans are two-thirds to three-fourths in favor.

Among clergy, more than ninety percent of the Baptists abstain, and two-thirds of the Methodists abstain. But only one-third of the Methodist laymen are abstainers.

- Three-fourths of frequent Bible readers and two-thirds of tithers abstain.
- Among frequent church-goers slightly more drink than abstain.

This is a quote from Billy Sunday:

**“If all the combined forces of hell should assemble in conclave and with them all the men on earth who hate and despise God, purity and virtue - if all the scum of the earth could mingle with the denizens of hell to try to think of the deadliest institution to home, church, and state, I tell you, sir, the combined forces of hell could not conceive of or bring an institution that could touch the hem of the garment of the tavern to damn the home, mankind, womanhood, business, and every other good thing on earth.” ---Billy Sunday**

### Human life is at stake.

31. With Christendom so divided on the subject we must take the \_\_\_\_\_ and not experience as our criterion.

Those who will disagree must profess interest in \_\_\_\_\_.

32. The \_\_\_\_\_ toward the proven killer alcohol is curious.

Even if we are divided on what the Scripture says shouldn't we look at human life and say that this is something that we should be careful of and avoid at all cost?

Let a deodorant be shown to contain some ingredient that appears to produce cancer in mice, and it is likely to be forced off the market. But let it be shown that approximately nine million Americans are excessive drinkers, that three fourths of all prison in-mates committed crimes after drinking, that alcohol is now in first place on the teenage drug abuse scene; and most people simply shrug their shoulders and turn the attention to something else.

33. Christians are \_\_\_\_\_ with the teaching that no one can prove that the Scriptures forbid the drinking of intoxicating beverages but only the excessive use of it.

**Drinking is serious business, but whose business is it?**