

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ♦ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ♦ Jennifer Derrick—good scans!

Others in Need

- ♦ Teresa Foster—passed away
- ♦ Mary Lou Joseph—cancer
- ♦ Mariah Hilburn—expecting
- ♦ Michael Hudson—stage 4 cancer
- ♦ Michelle Hudson—Covid-19
- ♦ Tony Jones—Parkinson's
- ♦ Denver Kitzan—brain surgery
- ♦ Jeff Mashburn—health problems
- ♦ Thad McCall—health problems
- ♦ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ♦ Shane Price—cancer
- ♦ Ashley Rawls—complications after delivery of child
- ♦ Larry Shappley—hospice care
- ♦ Yoel Urra—surgery recov. issue
- ♦ Ronnie Wells—health problems
- ♦ Craig Wray—stage 4 cancer

Continued in next column...

- ♦ Christians overseas
- ♦ Pray for the bereaved, the persecuted, sick/suffering, civil leaders, military, 1st responders, sound Bible schools, the lost, enemies.

Events



- Sept. 3**
Meal after AM Worship
- Sept. 10**
Men's Meeting
- Sept. 27**
4th Wednesday Singing

Faithful Worship — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving** weekly as prospered, cheerfully (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7); **5) The Lord's Supper** on the first day of every week (Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-34; 16:2; Heb. 10:23-31).

To Our Visitors

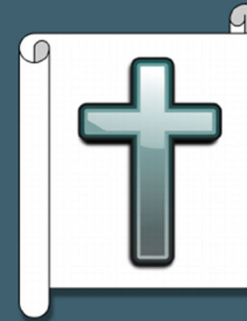


We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

Privileged to Serve



Announcements—Mark Howze
Song Leading—Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Caleb Howze
Serving the Lord's Supper
 Head: Leo Derrick; Helpers: Glenn Howze, Josh Lawson, Johnny Moss
Lord's Supper PM
 Head: Justin Derrick
 Helper: Ethan Howze
Scripture Reading—Ezra Howze



THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

September 3, 2023

Meeting Times

Sundays:

10AM Bible Class
 11AM Worship
 6PM Worship

Wednesdays:

7PM Bible Class

Other Information

5761 Hwy. 4
 P.O. Box 285
 Baker, FL 32531 USA
 850-669-9117

Website:

churchofChristatBaker.com

Radio Program:

104.7FM Sundays 8:30AM
 WAAZ1047.com livestream

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Some Thoughts on Consuming Alcohol in Moderation

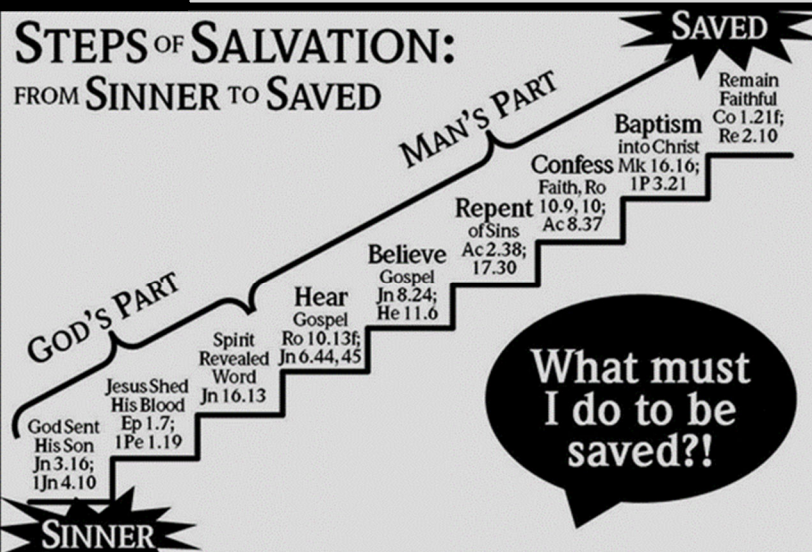
Ryan Hasty

Though drunkenness is condemned in the bible (Gal 5:21; 1 Cor 6:10), many Christians wonder if consumption of modern-day alcoholic beverages in moderation is acceptable. Honest Christians who are trying to please God have been trying to answer this question for ages and it certainly deserves an honest and thorough evaluation. The following are some thoughts to consider from a former drinker:

First, drunkenness is not merely a state; it is a process. Eph 5:18 says, "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit". According to Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible, the verb translated "drunk" means "do not begin to be softened" with wine. Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words defines this verb "drunk" as "to make drunk, or to grow drunk (an inceptive verb, marking the process of the state expressed in μεθύω), to become intoxicated..." In other words, Paul is stating that we should not even begin the process of becoming drunk. A person does not continuously drink unaffected and then at the next sip become drunk; the alcohol takes effect in stages due to the accumulation of alcohol in one's body. Since the alcohol begins taking effect in our body the moment we begin imbibing,

STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

"...ye were the servants of sin..."
 (Romans 6:17).



What must I do to be saved?!

"...but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17b-18).

it would logically follow that we should abstain from it altogether.

Second, alcohol absorption in the human body is determined by a variety of factors. These factors are gender, weight, body fat %, mood, medications, health, rate of consumption, etc. Several of these factors vary from day to day making it impossible to accurately and consistently determine what I deem to be “moderate” consumption. This means that the only way I can know if I’ve consumed too much alcohol on any particular day is to put it to the test. Consider too that alcohol takes time to fully absorb in the blood stream. Even if there is a definitive line where drunkenness is crossed, I may incorrectly assume that I have stopped before that line only to realize later that I have passed it because additional alcohol absorption had not yet taken place. This means that I may never know my limit on any given day until I have exceeded that limit. Christians must honestly ask themselves if this is truly being “careful how you walk” (Eph 5:15).

Third, consider the irony of claiming we can use sound judgment about when to stop drinking while we are in the process of consuming a beverage that hinders our judgment the moment we begin consuming it. “The higher nerve functions of the forebrain, such as reasoning, judgment, and social restraint are impaired by very low concentrations of alcohol in the blood.” (Encyclopedia Britannica, 1959 ed., “Drunkenness”, by Clarence Weinert Muelberger, p. 683). Alcohol is a depressant that dulls the senses and weakens a person’s power of self-criticism. The fact that there is no definitive amount of ethyl alcohol that we can be sure will keep our judgments sound is evidence of the danger in experimenting with it in the first place.

Finally, even experts throughout our world are divided over how much is too much. In Alabama, the blood/alcohol standard used to determine DUI is 0.08% for drivers over 21 years of age. But in countries such as Australia, Saudi Arabia, Hungary, Israel, the Czech Republic, and others, the standard is 0%. In Sweden, it is 0.02%. In Germany, it is 0.05%. Therefore, even people with greater expertise than us and whose job it is to try and define a line between sobriety and drunkenness to prevent as many highway deaths as possible, cannot agree on a line.

With so many unknowns regarding what is truly moderate and temperate

alcohol consumption, I strongly encourage my fellow Christians to abstain. Heaven is just too high a price to be gambled away aiming for subjective lines of “moderation”.

Editor’s note:

The Holy Spirit warned us through Paul:

*But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and **be sober**. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, **be sober**, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:1-9).*

The Greek word translated as “sober” in Paul’s text above is defined by Strong as: “*to abstain from wine*” (Strong’s Greek Lexicon). Merriam-Webster defines “sober” as “*abstaining from drinking alcohol or taking intoxicating drugs: refraining from the use of addictive substances.*” The Journal of the American Medical Association says: “*There is no minimum (blood-alcohol concentration) which can be set, at which there will be absolutely no effect...Although legal limits for BAC levels have been set in most states, impairment in driving skills can occur with any amount of alcohol in the bloodstream*” (May 3, 2000). Alcohol and many other mind-altering drugs work against the fruit of the Spirit (self-control—Gal. 5:23), and we cannot say we are obeying God’s command to remain sober if we drink beverage alcohol.

—JPH