

THE WORLD'S BIBLE #11

By Keith Greer

"THE SOCIAL DRINK." PART 1

As we continue our series of articles on worldliness (and our need, as Christians, to be a good example), the subject of the "social drink" must be a part of our study. Most people in "religious circles" (even my brethren who believe that they can drink "socially") condemn drunkenness. The passages are too plain to arrive at any other conclusions.

The apostle Paul told the Corinthians, "But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner--not even to eat with such a person. For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "put away from yourselves the evil person" (1 Corinthians 5:11-13)

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof." (Romans 13: 12-14)

"Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21)

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

We live in a society where the makers of alcoholic beverages have made it "accepted and natural" to drink at social gatherings. Virtually every televised sports event bombards us with a media blitz enticing us to "grab all the gusto". We can join in on all the fun if we will only drink a special brand of beer. Indeed, some of the most humorous commercials on television are all aimed at trying to get us to buy either beer, wine coolers, or other alcoholic beverages.

Sadly, this problem has not just taken in the ignorant of the world, but many of our own brethren. All will agree very quickly that being "drunk" is sinful and unacceptable behavior for the child of God. Yet, when we get beyond that, some seem to hedge and seek to justify drinking "socially" – of course in moderation. Do cocktail parties, drinking a glass of wine

with our meal, drinking in the privacy of our homes, drinking toasts at weddings, special occasions and of course the holidays justify such behavior? God's people want to make it clear that getting "drunk" is wrong behavior and they are not advocating or seeking to justify any such actions in the life of a Christian. Noble aren't they?

Before you think that this is just a personal opinion I want you to understand I've had discussions with elders, preachers and many members who sought to defend "social drinking." Seeking to convince me that "narrow minded people like me were driving people out of the church and making the Christian life more difficult to live than God requires in His word."

God clearly instructed us that if we practice the works of the flesh, we "shall not inherit the kingdom of God." As Christians, we are to walk as "children of light". Can we be a light if we are still in darkness? In this detailed series we will examine if the child of God can drink alcohol in ANY social setting. Personal opinion or teaching of the word – you be the judge?
