

THE WORLD'S BIBLE #16

By Keith Greer

THE SOCIAL DRINK. Part 6

In 1 Thessalonians 5: 21-22, the apostle Paul encouraged the Thessalonians to "prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. "

There are brethren that have told me that drinking alcoholic beverages is only "an appearance of evil to narrow minded preachers like you". Is that true?

If you believe that it is, I would like you to consider the following questions, and answer them honestly within your heart.

- 1. Does my drinking damage or lessen my example as a Christian to those in the world?**
- 2. Does my drinking damage my influence for good to people in the world?**
- 3. Do I honestly believe that I can talk to, and convince someone of the need to, obey Christ in a bar - with a drink in my hand?**
- 4. Do I believe that drinking is a good influence on my children? Am I telling my children not to use drugs, but I believe it is alright to drink - just in moderation? Would I have any problem with them following my example?**
- 5. Can I honestly get up and publicly defend my right to drink socially, or in moderation, to my brethren. Or, do I want to keep those beliefs hidden?**
- 6. Is drinking a form of godliness? Can I honestly say that, by participating, I am not "conforming to this world"?**
- 7. Am I a better, and stronger, Christian because of my drinking?**

As I often said, Las Vegas is a unique city for many reasons. The drinking of alcoholic beverages is a particular problem there because of such easy access. Anyone who is willing to gamble will be furnished with free drinks for as long as he or she is willing to keep playing. The end result not only is a rise in alcoholism but also the injuries and deaths that occur when people then get in their cars and try to drive home. In 1990, 157 deaths occurred in Nevada because of alcohol related accidents. Is it any wonder that automobile insurance is so expensive in the city of Las Vegas and many other cities. Even those of us who do not participate are helping to pay the price for those who do.

This is the final article in this special series on social drinking. In the past few years there has been an increase with many brethren seeking to defend and uphold the conclusion that only "excessive drinking" is condemned by God. In these articles I have answered every one of the arguments that have been offered to this preacher to defend this

conduct. We have examined all of the passages that are given to defend social drinking and correctly shows the passages give no such approval by God to participate in the "social drink."

The real price that we pay, of course, will be spiritual. As Christians, we are told to " ... be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12: 2) Could it be that we have forgotten that God demands that we be "the salt and light" of this world, Matthew 5:14-16. Sadly, too much of the world is creeping into the church. Remember Israel's reason for wanting a king? "To be like the nations around them." Dear reader, we know how that turned out don't we? What are you showing those in the world about what Christ has done for you? ***