

March 2002

THE BIBLE AND SOCIAL DRINKING

It never ceases to amaze me at the number of Christians who attempt to justify social drinking of alcoholic beverages. There is no justification for it at all in the Bible. Christians who drink therefore do so only because they like to drink and for no other reason. Listen to what 1st Peter 4:3 has to say about this issue: "*for the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lust, EXCESS OF WINE, REVELINGS, BANQUETINGS, and abominable idolatries.*" The words that are underlined cover the full scope of alcohol use: "*drunkenness, the behavior while under the influence of alcohol, and drinking parties, which include social drinking.*" Listen to the statement of Proverbs 20:1: "*Wine is a mocker, and strong drink is raging: and whoever is deceived thereby is not wise.*"

Christians wake up! Social Drinking is a sin that the Bible clearly condemns!

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTHS BIBLE QUESTIONS:

Adam and Eve were created as full-grown adults who were able to reproduce and have children, even though they had no childhood themselves. (Gen 2:18-25; Gen. 3 &4)

Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet were instructed by David to anoint Solomon as king (1 Kings 1:33-35)

QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MONTH

What is the name of the king who committed suicide by burning himself up in the king's house? (How long did he reign as king over Israel before killing himself?)

What is the occupation of the writer Luke, who wrote the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts?

ARE YOU THINKING WISELY?

In Hebrews 9:27 we read that it is "*... appointed unto man once to die ...*" Solomon also said in Ecclesiastes 9:5 that the "*... living know that they shall die ...*" This doesn't come as any surprise to anyone because daily life shows us that people die. But Hebrews 9:27 also says this "***And as it is appointed unto man once to die, and after this the JUDGMENT ...***" The Bible makes it very

clear that there is an accounting that mankind must give after death. Romans 14:12 says **"So then every one of us shall give an account of himself to God."** And this accounting will be based solely on how we live our lives upon this earth. 2nd Corinthians 5:10 has this to say **"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in this body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."** There is no second chance to be saved after you have died: our salvation or damnation will be determined only by how we lived while in the flesh and nothing more. So when you die, that's it.

WHERE SALVATION IS FOUND?

In 2nd Timothy 2:10 we read the following statement: **"Therefore I endure all things for the elects sakes, that they may obtain the SALVATION WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS with eternal glory."** The Bible makes it clear that **"Salvation is found only in Christ and no other!"** Peter said as much in Acts 4:12 when he said **"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."** That means there is no salvation found in Joseph Smith, Mohammad, or any one else. Therefore if you wish to be saved, then you must be in Christ, for this is where salvation is located.

The Bible speaks of only one way to get into Christ where salvation is found, and that is through the act of baptism. Galatians 3:27 and Romans 6:3-4 clearly teach that a person enters into Christ when he or she is baptized into Christ. Listen to what Galatians 3:27 says: **"For as many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."** If there is no other way to be saved than through and in Jesus Christ, and if you must be baptized to get into Christ, then this would clearly mean that baptism is necessary for salvation. **IF NOT, WHY NOT?**

I know that it takes the **"blood of Jesus to wash away our sins"**, but I also know that we are **"baptized into the death of Christ"** where Jesus shed His blood according to Romans 6:3-4 and John 19:34. Look also at Acts 22:16 and Revelations 1:5 to clearly see the connection between baptism and the blood of Jesus. People who teach **"salvation without baptism"** therefore are also saying you can be **"saved without the blood of Jesus"** **IF NOT, WHY NOT?**