

A Study About Elders (Part 6)

I. Introduction:

A. Mankind's struggle with alcohol is not a new issue (**Genesis 9:20-21**).

1. While the hopeless, that had nothing to lose spiritually (**Psalms 1:6**), looked to alcohol to drown their sorrows (**Proverbs 31:6-7**)...
2. ... It has not just been a problem among the hopeless (**Isaiah 28:7-8**, **Isaiah 56:10-12**, and **Hosea 7:1-8**).

B. Additionally, some Scriptures are confusing when you do not have a larger understanding of this matter and that creates problems (**II Peter 3:15-18**).

1. Some think Jesus made alcohol (**John 2:1-12**) because they do not have the depth of knowledge to UNDERSTAND how He couldn't have (**Hebrews 4:14-16** and **I Peter 2:21-22**; cf. **Habakkuk 2:15-16**, **Romans 14:13**, **Romans 14:21**, **II Corinthians 6:3**, and **James 1:13**).
2. When you read words that are translated "wine" (**I Timothy 5:23**), you cannot just conclude they are speaking of alcohol (i.e. **Isaiah 65:8**).
3. Some Scriptures are stated in such a way [*"much wine"*] that create honest questions (**I Timothy 3:8** and **Titus 2:3**).
4. So, this qualification requires careful study of the Scriptures lest one be easily swayed into an improper conviction (**Colossians 2:4-8**).

II. Body: A Bishop Must Be Vigilant, Not Given To Wine (**I Timothy 3:2-3** and **Titus 1:7**).

A. When you dive in and look at the word translated "vigilant" you find this: "sober, i.e. (figuratively) circumspect: — sober. Temperate, abstaining from wine, either entirely or at least from its immoderate use; of things free from all wine, as vessels, offerings" (Strong's # 3524). *Translated "sober" in **I Timothy 3:11** and **Titus 2:2**.

1. Alcohol impairs judgment (**Proverbs 31:4-5**).
2. Alcohol causes errors to be made (**Leviticus 10:8-11**).
3. Think about an Old Testament principle of separation (**Numbers 6:1-3**) tied to this principle concerning saints: **II Corinthians 6:14-7:1**

B. There is a reason the Lord expects His leaders not to be given to wine (**Luke 1:13-17**).

1. The Scriptures warn about wine in its intoxicating form regardless of the amount one would drink (**Proverbs 20:1**, **Proverbs 23:19-20**, **Proverbs 23:29-35**, **Hosea 4:11**, and **I Peter 4:1-5**).
2. The Scriptures also warn about being drunkards (**Proverbs 21:17**, **Isaiah 5:11**, **Isaiah 5:22**, **Luke 21:33-34**, **Romans 13:12-14**, **I Corinthians 6:9-11**, **Galatians 5:19-21**, and **Ephesians 5:15-18**).

C. Think about how God views those spiritual leaders that would promote the consumption of alcohol (**Micah 2:11**; cf. **Micah 3:5**).

1. Those promoting something that removes one's conscience, thinking, etc.; have an ungodly agenda (**Genesis 19:30-38, II Samuel 11:1-13, and II Samuel 13:28**).
2. When our consciences are not able to be affected, which we've seen alcohol accomplishes, bad things will happen (**Ephesians 4:17-19**).
3. A shepherd who cares for our souls would never teach us to be unguarded or susceptible to temptation (**I Thessalonians 5:5-9**).

III. Conclusion: The instruction for elders and all saints to be sober, alert, of sound mind {various Greek words}; should resolve any and all questions (**Titus 1:8 and I Peter 5:8-9**).