

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 159 – Wine Is A Mocker Through Unjust Measurements (Proverbs 20:1-10)

1. Is wine (in the form of alcohol) a good thing?

No: *“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (Proverbs 20:1).*

- Christians don’t drink alcoholic beverages because we realize the warnings (**Proverbs 20:1, Proverbs 21:17, Isaiah 5:11, Isaiah 5:22, Hosea 4:11, Habakkuk 2:15, Luke 21:33-34, I Thessalonians 5:7-8, and I Peter 4:1-5**).
- Christians don’t drink alcohol because we realize that it clouds our judgment (**Proverbs 31:4-5**). We cannot allow our judgment to be clouded (**Romans 12:1-3, Titus 2:1-6, Titus 2:11-14, I Peter 1:13, I Peter 4:7, and I Peter 5:8**).
- Christians won’t drink that which we are not even supposed to look upon (**Proverbs 23:29-35**) or be around (**Proverbs 23:20-21**)!
- The word “wine” in the KJV does not always mean alcohol (**Isaiah 65:8**).

2. Is it wise to provoke a king and make him angry?

No: *“The fear of a king is as the roaring of a lion: whoso provoketh him to anger sinneth against his own soul” (Proverbs 20:2).*

- **Proverbs 16:14-15 and Proverbs 19:12.**

3. Should we cease from strife?

Yes: *“It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling” (Proverbs 20:3).*

- Strife is not good (**Proverbs 17:14, Proverbs 25:8-10, Proverbs 28:25, Philippians 2:3, and James 3:16**).

4. Do sluggards find excuses not to work?

Yes: *“The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing” (Proverbs 20:4).*

- **Proverbs 19:15, Proverbs 19:24, Proverbs 26:13-16, and Matthew 24:14-30.**

5. If counsel is deep, what will a man of understanding do?

Draw it out: *“Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out” (Proverbs 20:5).*

- We need to be people of deeper thoughts (cf. **I Corinthians 2:9-16 and Hebrews 5:12-14**).

6. While men are willing to “toot their own horns”, is it easy to find faithful men?

No: *“Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find”* (**Proverbs 20:6**)?

- For one, we do not want to call all men evil in haste (**Psalms 116:11**; cf. **Ecclesiastes 5:2**).
- That being said, there are never many faithful on the earth (**Genesis 18:16-19:25**, **Psalms 12:1**, **Ecclesiastes 7:28**, **Matthew 22:14**, **Luke 13:23-34**, **Luke 18:8**, and **I Peter 4:17-19**).
- We should not be boasters of our own good (**Proverbs 25:14**, **Proverbs 27:2**, **II Corinthians 10:17-18**, **Galatians 6:3**, and **James 4:16**).

7. Do children benefit from having fathers who are just men?

Yes: *“The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him”* (**Proverbs 20:7**).

- **Ephesians 6:4**; cf. **Proverbs 22:6**.

8. Can a king purge evil from among his nation?

Sure: *“A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes”* (**Proverbs 20:8**).

- **Proverbs 20:26** and **Romans 13:1-7**.

9. Can any of us purify ourselves without God’s involvement?

No: *“Who can say, **I have made** my heart clean, **I am pure** from my sin”* (**Proverbs 20:9**)?

- **Philippians 3:9**.
- We don’t want to be the one’s who trust in ourselves that we are righteous (**Luke 18:9-14** and **Revelation 3:14-22**).
- We need Christ to be righteous (**Romans 5:14-21**, **Ephesians 2:1-13**, and **II Timothy 1:8-9**).
- This verse **DOES NOT** mean we’re not to be pure from sin (**II Corinthians 7:1**, **I Timothy 5:22**, **II Timothy 2:19**, and **I Peter 1:13-16**).

10. What is God’s view of dishonesty in perverting measurements?

“Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them are alike abomination to the LORD” (**Proverbs 20:10**).

- **Leviticus 19:35**, **Proverbs 11:1**, **Proverbs 16:11**, and **Proverbs 20:23**; cf. **Romans 12:17**.