

by Wayne Goff

The NBC Report

God is not trying to be a “party pooper,” nor does He want us to fail to enjoy life and all its rightful pleasures and blessings! He is trying to protect His people from sin, sickness, heartache and death! One can **refuse to ever** take a *single* drink of intoxicating beverages and live a happy, fulfilled life! But how many people took that “first drink” and began a life of waste, ruin and death?!

From NBC’s “holiday party” we can see that people who drank intoxicating beverages had their **judgment impaired** and **were honestly deceived** about their physical ability to perform important tasks. Some were “drunk” (above the legal limit) without having their speech slurred, and without falling all over themselves. But they failed the breathalyzer test, and could not pass the “field sobriety test” (walking 10 steps in a straight line, heel to toe).

Since alcohol **impairs judgment**, how can one “drink responsibly,” as suggested by the liquor companies? One average-sized lady had two drinks and was legally drunk, even an hour and a half later! Solomon warned in Proverbs 23 that one who drinks intoxicating drink will have “*wounds without cause*” and “*redness of eyes*” (v. 29). He says “*your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things*” (v. 33). Today, we call that impairment, and if such a one were drinking and driving, then he would be driving drunk. Can we not see, dear reader, that a lifetime of *avoiding* such stupor is **better** for one? Where is the “fun” in seeing, saying, and doing things you will later regret? An apology might suffice for the sinful actions, but what if you drive in that condition and are killed or kill someone? “*At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper*” (v. 32).

The common misconception that you can wait an hour or two after drinking “responsibly” and then drive home was proven wrong. Authorities report that your blood alcohol level can *continue* to rise **after** drinking, as the liquor “seeps” into your system.

One of the participants in the study, “Ron,” confidently affirmed that he could drive home if his house were *only two blocks* from the party. But he could not walk straight in the heel-to-toe field sobriety test, and when given the breathalyzer test, his blood alcohol level was .13 — almost double the legal limit! When informed of this he was surprised, especially after only three drinks! NBC reported that *actually* the man had consumed four drinks and taken another “shot”! Herein is another problem for drinkers — they often lose count of how much they have had to drink. NBC stated that this was a common problem among party-goers.

“Ron” said that the news was “disheartening” and the thought of him driving home in that condition was “scary.” When asked what he thought now, he said: “I am an idiot. . . . God forbid that I’d hurt somebody, or kill somebody.” You see, dear reader, this man was not a criminal, but an otherwise decent man who might have done something to harm another and regretted it for the rest of his life! Following the Bible’s instruction to **avoid** such situations and such beverages is actually good, sound advice.

Choosing to **never** drink alcohol means that your mind will never be judgmentally impaired by alcohol, so you won’t have to be sorry for what you’ve done later! Noah drank the wine of his vineyard and **became drunk** and was discovered “*uncovered*” by his sons (Gen. 9:21-23). Ham saw his father’s “*nakedness*” and was cursed (Gen. 9:22, 25). Lot was made drunk by his two daughters and never knew that he had sexual relations with them (Gen. 19:33-36)! How many despicable sins have been committed by those who had their judgment impaired?! God is trying to make our lives much more pleasant and easy, if only we will take His eternal wisdom to heart!

May God bless you and keep you safe through the holiday season as you choose wisely and soberly, Romans 13:12-13. “*Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts*” (Rom. 13:14).