

The Party's Over

by Dick Blackford

“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.” (Proverbs 20:1). We are entering the season when more alcohol is consumed than at any other time. The problem with temptation is that we see only the glitter. But “all that glitters is not gold.” Intoxicants sponsor many sports events. Usually the drinker is a handsome man or a beautiful woman who seem to be having great fun. The viewer is to draw the conclusion that he is missing out on the finer things of life and the way to benefit is to start drinking. Breweries should be arrested for false advertising!

At The Last . . .

The Bible tells us what's behind the glitter. *Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, . . . Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; **at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper**”* (Proverbs 23:28-32). Beverage alcohol promises good times. What it *delivers* is quite different from what it *promises*.

“Woes & Sorrows”

Physical Effects On The Drinker. Drinking has been associated with severe damage to the liver, heart, and pancreas; and an increased risk of cancer of the mouth, larynx, esophagus, and liver. It can lead to malnutrition, stomach irritation, less resistance to disease, and irreversible brain and nervous system damage. On the average, the life span of a heavy drinker is shortened 10 to 12 years.¹

Physical Effects On Others. A recent report showed the effects of marijuana on airplane pilots. A more recent study shows that “pilot performance may be impaired for up to 14 hours after a drinking bout, even though no alcohol remains in the blood. . . This study at least suggests that in alcohol free subjects, there is still some impairment.”² This translates into accidents and probable death to innocent passengers.

Alcohol can be especially dangerous to pregnant women, possibly resulting in spontaneous abortions, children with slow growth, birth defects and learning and behavior disorders. Also possible is the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, which includes physical problems and irreversible mental retardation.³

Alcohol-related traffic fatalities are the leading cause of death among 16-24 year olds.

Alcohol is connected with the majority of crimes (rape, theft, murder, etc.). To say the least, in all these cases the Golden Rule is violated (Luke 6:31).

Spiritual And Eternal Effects. Since alcohol silences the conscience, it is easy to commit further evils while under its influence. *“The wages of sin is death”* — spiritual separation from God (Romans 6:23). *“Be not deceived: no . . . drunkard . . . shall inherit the kingdom of God”* (1 Corinthians 6:9f). Remember, there would be no *“at the last”* if there were no *“at first.”*

End Notes:

1. ALCOHOL...THE MOST ABUSED DRUG IN AMERICA, pamphlet produced in cooperation with the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
2. AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY, December, 1986
3. ALCOHOL...THE MOST ABUSED DRUG IN AMERICA

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