Bumby Bible Questions 5

Ken & Gregory

INTRODUCTION

- And that question is: is it okay for a Christian to drink alcohol?
- There is a lot about drinking in the Bible, but we have to break down what does it mean, what does it say?

1 The Bible Speaks Strongly Against Strong Drink

Proverbs 20:1

- Wine is a mocker. Strong drink is a brawler. And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.
- Do not look at the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly. At last it bites like a serpent and stings like a viper.
- Very graphic picture of drink and what it can do to someone.

2 Passages That Make Some Argument for Drinking

Romans 14:21; 1 Timothy 5:23

- It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine, nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.
- No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.
- You could make the argument that the Bible is clearly against drinking wine, but you have to be able to explain why.

3 The Terms Used: Wine and Strong Drink

- In both Old and New Testament language, that word would have been used for both a non-intoxicating drink as well as an intoxicating drink.
- The term strong drink in the scriptures refers to any fully fermented drink.
- Not only do the terms matter, but how much alcohol was in them matters too.
- Wine not diluted falls under the category of strong drink, according to biblical standards.

4 Today's Drinks Compared to Strong Drink

- Most modern day wine, for example, has an alcoholic content of 11 to 14%.
- That is one safe use of the word always. Strong drink is always condemned in the scriptures.
- If we are, as Christians going to say the Bible doesn't say anything about our modern day drinking, that's not true.
- The Bible condemns strong drink, and that's a lot of what our country offers.

5 Arguments in Favor of Drinking

Matthew 11; 1 Timothy 5:23

- Would God in the flesh, create more intoxicating beverage to probably get these people intoxicated when the scriptures clearly condemn drunkenness.
- Is there solid biblical evidence that Jesus drank something intoxicating? And that is missing from the pages, certainly, of the New Testament.
- A specific narrow purpose for the purposes of healing, recovery, medicinal purposes.
- Is God bound by the laws of the state of Florida? Is that what God says is drunkenness?
- Maybe our question should be not is this sinful, but is this good?

6 Why Should a Christian Abstain?

Romans 14:21

- One is clearly drunkenness is condemned by God.
- And a second one, strong drink is condemned by God.
- If drinking wine causes your brother to stumble, what should you do with it? Not drink.
- Am I doing the best for God's image and glory to those who can see me in the meantime?

THE CHALLENGE

Be honest in your approach of the scriptures. What did the scriptures condemn? But also what do the scriptures allow in our life? What's the best way that we can reflect the glory of God in our own lives?

MY NOTES