



ALCOHOL & Other Addictive Substances

As you go through each lesson, look up the Bible verses and answer the questions in the blanks provided. When you are finished with this lesson you and your mentor will meet to discuss your answers and any questions you may have. This is not a pass/fail test, so answer honestly as you understand things. We want you to understand, not just to give the “right” answer.



Scripture is very plain. There are some things that are "lawful" (allowed) for us to do that are not the best things for us to do. Anything that takes control over us is something that should be avoided. Are you willing to set aside any habits, substances, or activities that would hinder your Christian testimony?

In years past, alcohol and some now-common drugs were forbidden under the laws of Prohibition. But in today's society, alcohol is totally legal after a person reaches a certain age, and now lawmakers in many states have legalized gateway drugs that were once taboo.

There are many "adult" activities promoted in today's media as being normal. Most television sitcoms and movies depict drinking alcoholic beverages as a way to calm one's nerves and deal with the pressures of life.

Christians who warn against drinking or the use of drugs like marijuana are often called "legalists." When the State give the okay for some of these things, that were once forbidden, and a Christian speaks against something what are we to do? Let's study the Bible for some guidance.

1. Read **Proverbs 23:19-20**. What advice is given to young people in these verses?

2. Read **Isaiah 5:11-12**. Who do you think is being described in these two verses?

3. Read **Isaiah 22:13 & Isaiah 56:12**. What is the attitude of those who have a "party-animal" lifestyle?

4. Read **Proverbs 23:29-35**. What are some of the sad, uncomfortable circumstances and feelings listed in these verses?

5. Read **Proverbs 23:29-35** again. What are some of the beautiful but deceptive things that are listed regarding wine?

6. Read **Proverbs 23:32** again. What animals are used to describe the outcome of drinking wine?

7. Read **Proverbs 23:33-35** again. What do you think these verses are describing?

8. Read **Habakkuk 2:15**. Who does the prophet pronounce a woe (curse) upon in this verse?

9. Read **I Corinthians 10:23**. Do you agree that some things that might be allowed are simply not expedient or profitable?

10. Read **I Corinthians 10:23** again. What does "edify" mean?

11. Read **I Corinthians 10:23** again. How would drinking alcohol or using illicit drugs "edify" you as a believer?

12. Now go to **I Corinthians 10:24** and read the next verse. What else should be considered in our choices regarding the use of alcohol or drugs?

13. Read **I Corinthians 6:12-20**. It is true that these verses speak primarily of the consequences of living in sexual sin; but how could they also apply to the drinking of alcohol or the use of illicit drugs?

14. Read **Romans 14:14, 15 & 21**. Other people are watching the way you live. You may think you are strong enough to handle liquor or drugs; but what will be the effect of your actions on those who are watching you?

15. Read I Corinthians 6:9-12. This is a list of many sins that are typical of those who do not know the Lord. Do you think that you should continue doing those things? **Write out verse 11.** If you have been cleansed from sin is it wise to continue in things that could pull you back into those sins?

16. Read I Thessalonians 5:22. What should we do with anything that could appear to be wrong?

17. Read I Thessalonians 5:23. What is the result of obeying verse 22?

18. Read I Thessalonians 5:24. Who is able to help you obey verse 22?

19. Read I Corinthians 9:27. What is a castaway? Anything that could possibly disqualify you from obeying God and doing His will is something that you should be very wary of! What did Paul do to prevent becoming a disqualified castaway?

20. Read Ephesians 5:17-21. What is the opposite of being "drunk with wine?" You should desire to be controlled by Him!

21. Read I Corinthians 5:9-11. Sometimes we are put in situations where we have to be around unsaved people who drink; but are believers supposed to hang out with and be close friends with a Christian who is a drunkard?

22. Read Romans 13:11-14. The Lord may come back at any moment. According to these verses, what should we do with anything that could be habit-forming and feeding our sinful desires?

23. Read II Corinthians 5:17. What happens to old habits when a Christian becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus?

Obviously, most of these Scripture verses speak of alcoholism and not illicit drugs. But the principle is clear. Anything that takes control of our bodies and minds other than God and His Holy Spirit is something that we need to set aside.

Nobody ever got drunk who did not take the first drink. Nobody ever got hooked on drugs who did not play with these substances at some point in their lives. This is a main reason we teach total abstinence.

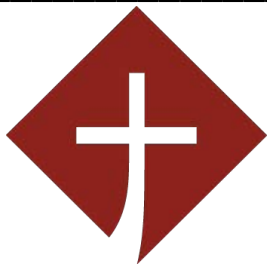
But...in order to be honest, we must admit that there is an exception regarding the use of alcoholic beverages or other powerful drugs.

24. Read I Timothy 5:23 & Proverbs 31:6-7. These two verses are the only place in the Scripture that encourage drinking of alcoholic beverages. For what purpose are the use of alcoholic beverages encouraged in these passages?

25. Scripture clearly warns us of the dangers of drinking. In our day, we have a multitude of other medicines and anesthetics. Would you not agree that this makes the use of alcohol for these purposes to be non-essential?

26. What did you learn from this lesson that you did not know?

27. How can you make this a part of your everyday life?



HAMILTON SQUARE
BAPTIST CHURCH



MEMORIZE THESE VERSES for Lesson 12

(pick the translation that works best for you)

Title to verses: Addictions

Proverbs 20:1 (KJV) Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

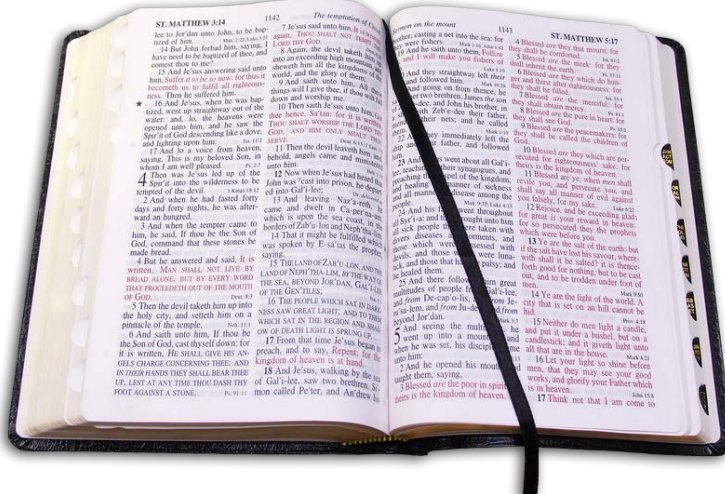
Proverbs 20:1 (NASB) Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.

Proverbs 31:4-5 (KJV) It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: 5 Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.

Proverbs 31:4-5 (NASB) It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Or for rulers to desire strong drink, 5 For they will drink and forget what is decreed, And pervert the rights of all the afflicted.

Proverbs 23:31-32 (KJV) Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. 32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

Proverbs 23:31-32 (NASB) Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly; 32 at the last it bites like a serpent and stings like a viper.



ACCOUNTABILITY PAGE

My Name: _____

My Mentor's Name: _____

Date I completed Lesson Ten: _____

My Mentor's Signature: _____

A Pastor's Signature: _____



HAMILTON SQUARE
BAPTIST CHURCH

Remember:

It's important to be at church whenever you are able, so you can continue to grow in the Lord!

SUNDAYS

9:45 am – Bible Study or Sunday School

10:50 am – Morning Worship Service

Lunch & Mingle

1:30 pm – Afternoon Church Service

WEDNESDAYS

7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

DIGGING DEEPER

OPTIONAL: Extra information



Are You Thinking About Drinking?

This is a devotional written for teenagers many years ago. Read these passages and do the study - keeping in mind that this deals with more than alcoholic beverages, but any kind of addictive substance.

Two young Christian men were having a discussion regarding the "pro's and con's" of drinking. One man argued that since Jesus turned water into wine, then drinking must be okay. The other man disagreed. Many Christians are in the same boat - not sure about the issue. Is it okay to drink socially or is it better to abstain completely?

A Christian research group headed up by George Barna reports that a 1997 toll revealed that 32% of Christians and 64% of non-Christians say they drank an alcoholic beverage within the last month. The numbers are probably much higher than that today. But, according to that survey, only half as many Christians is likely to drink alcoholic beverages as non-Christians. But is that good enough?

Another survey reports that more than one in four Americans engage in bouts of binge drinking. Abuse of alcohol kills roughly 100,000 Americans a year...Binge drinking accounted for roughly half of those 100,000 deaths. Heavy drinking episodes are accepted as a joke or heralded as a badge of courage; and liquor advertising too often targets the young.



Discipleship Lesson #12: ALCOHOL & Other Addictive Substances

The police will report that drinking is a serious problem in America. One Christian police officer wrote that, "Early in my career I was shocked to learn that only a small percentage of the deaths were pure accidents. Most of the deaths would never have happened if the people involved had been thinking straight. As a matter of fact, *most* of my calls for service are alcohol or drug related. In a typical family dispute, either the husband or the wife - and most often both have been drinking. People just don't think straight when they've got alcohol in them."

While talking with a personal friend who is also a Christian police officer, I was shocked to learn that many young people who go to church on Sunday have been out drinking with their classmates on Friday night.

Even if it's not a problem or temptation for you personally, perhaps the following short Bible studies and devotional thoughts will help you to take a proper, Bible-centered stance regarding this important issue. **Make up your mind to engage in biblical *thinking* before you partake in recreational *drinking*!**

Read **Proverbs 23:20-35**

37% OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ADMIT TO BINGE DRINKING - That statistic came from a study done by a young lady from a Christian school in 2002. That same study saith that 18% of the freshmen participating in a poll conducted in 194 by the Council for Christian Colleges admitted to drinking beer in high school. In 1998, the same council conducted another study that learned that 40% of their college seniors consumed alcohol weekly! If you haven't already been tempted to drink, there's a good chance that you will be tempted within the next few years. What are you going to do about it? Do you have a conviction about drinking? Have you thought this through?

***Daniel 1:8** (NASB) ...Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.*

Read **Titus 2:6-8**

YOUNG MEN...BE SOBER-MINDED. BE SENSIBLE. - "Drinking to get drunk is more prevalent among men than women, with men accounting for 81% of the 1/5 billion U.S. binge-drinking episodes in 2001." (*from a new story on Yahoo*). While it is true that *some* teenaged girls do drink, it's no secret that teenaged *guys* tend to drink more than teenaged girls do. Perhaps that's why the bible speaks so directly to young men about being "sober-minded (sensible)." One 14-year-old still enjoyed playing tag and hide-and-seek. That same boy put a 12-gauge shotgun to the chest of a man and pulled a trigger. Why did he do it? "I don't know! I didn't want to do it. I guess I wasn't thinking straight. I guess I had too much to drink!" If he hadn't been drinking at all, he would have never run the risk of having too much. (*from a Regular Baptist Press devotional written for teenagers*). When people drink, they seldom know they've had too much until it's too late!

***Proverbs 20:1** (NASB) Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.*

Read **Deuteronomy 29:2-6**

DRAW CLOSE TO GOD. STAY AWAY FROM ALCOHOL! - The Hebrews followed Moses through great temptation in the wilderness for 40 years. God met every one of their needs during that time. They didn't need alcohol. Neither do you! TV ads want you to think that people who drink are young and healthy and successful. They say that people who drink are happy and funny. They're the ones with all of the friends. Oh really?! Look at the same people 10 years down the road and compare them with those who don't drink. Then you'll get the real picture. The facts are that alcohol is a poison that depresses the central nervous system and kills brain and liver cells. Most drinkers end up lonely and depressed. Their behavior is often inappropriate, offensive, and even violent. Even many unsaved people tend to admire those who avoid alcohol, because

they have seen the problems with drinking. Living for God brings much more joy than drinking (or drugs) ever will!

Compare these two passages of Scripture:

Proverbs 23:29-30 (NASB) *Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? 30 Those who linger long over wine, Those who go to taste mixed wine.*

John 10:10 (NASB) *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*

Read **John 2:1-10**

DIDN'T JESUS TURN WATER INTO WINE? - Until the discovery of the modern processes of wine distillation (probably 1500 A.D.) the word "wine" was used to designate fruit juices - "new" or "sweet" when preserved, "old" or "strong" when fermented.¹ In the Hebrew language, there are primarily three words that are translated, "wine" in the English language. They are *yain*, *tirosh*, and *shekar*. *Yain* means "fruit beverages." *Tirosh* means "vine-fruit." It is interesting that even today there are people in the Middle East who refer to grapes on the vine as "wine." *Shekar* speaks of any drink from sources other than grapes, and is connected with woes, sorrow, warnings, etc. In the Greek New Testament the word wine in John 2 is *oinos* which can be translated in Hebrew either as *yain* or *tirosh*, but never as *shekar*. So, it is doubtful that Jesus turned water into fermented wine - the kind people get drunk on. Besides, can you imagine the Author of Scripture contributing to anything that could make a person drunken when He speaks so strongly against it in other places in the Bible?

As an example, look at what happened to Nadab and Abihu, the priestly sons of Aaron who were burned to death by the wrath of God for offering strange fire on His altar. Their sin was probably initiated by drunkenness.

¹ Bertha Rachel Palmer. *The Bible and the Use of the Word "Wine"* (signal press, Evanston, IL).

***Leviticus 10:1-7** (NASB) Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. 2 And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. 3 Then Moses said to Aaron, "It is what the LORD spoke, saying, 'By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored.'" So Aaron, therefore, kept silent.*

4 Moses called also to Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Aaron's uncle Uzziel, and said to them, "Come forward, carry your relatives away from the front of the sanctuary to the outside of the camp." 5 So they came forward and carried them still in their tunics to the outside of the camp, as Moses had said. 6 Then Moses said to Aaron and to his sons Eleazar and Ithamar, "Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, so that you will not die and that He will not become wrathful against all the congregation. But your kinsmen, the whole house of Israel, shall bewail the burning which the LORD has brought about. 7 You shall not even go out from the doorway of the tent of meeting, or you will die; for the LORD'S anointing oil is upon you." So they did according to the word of Moses.

The commands that followed this incident (*vs. 8-11*) seem to indicate that the reason Nadab and Abihu did what they did was because they had been partaking of alcoholic beverages and were therefore out of control.

***Leviticus 10:8-11** (NASB) The LORD then spoke to Aaron, saying, 9 "Do not drink wine or strong drink, neither you nor your sons with you, when you come into the tent of meeting, so that you will not die— it is a perpetual statute throughout your generations— 10 and so as to make a distinction between the holy and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean, 11 and so as to teach the sons of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them through Moses."*

Read **Esther 1:1-12**

ASK VASHTI WHAT DRINKING DID TO HER HAPPY HOME! - Drinking has wrecked many-a-home and separated many men and their wives. At a party King Ahasuerus was so drunk that he forgot about loving his wife and wanted to use her as a public plaything. In his drunkenness he wanted Vashti to show off her body for the fun of a bunch of drunkards. No godly husband would subject the woman he loves to such a spectacle! How disgraceful drunkenness is! How demeaning to women! Girls, beware of a man who drinks! He may seem like a lot of fun now; but if you hang around him for long, sooner or later the fun will be at your expense. Ahasuerus may have been a good man when he was sober, but like most men, when he drank, he became despicable!

Proverbs 31:4-5 (NASB) It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to desire strong drink, 5 for they will drink and forget what is decreed, and pervert the rights of all the afflicted.

Read **Genesis 19:30-38**

ASK LOT WHAT DRINKING DID TO HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS DAUGHTERS! - Growing up in Sodom, Lot's daughters had seen that alcohol could control people. When their home was destroyed by God's hand, they may have feared that they and their father were the only people left on earth. They wanted to have children. Was their father "the last man on earth" who could give them children? So, they schemed to get him drunk with wine. Lot let down his guard and allowed them to convince him to start drinking fermented wine - perhaps to forget his troubles after the loss of his home and his wife. Then he did the unthinkable because of the influence of alcohol. Drinking was not the answer to his troubles. It only added to them. Two nations that troubled Israel for many ages were born because two young ladies and their father depended on alcohol to solve their problems. Do you see how alcohol only compounded their problems?

Hosea 4:11 (NASB) Harlotry, wine and new wine take away the understanding.

Romans 13:13-14 (NASB) Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

Read I Timothy 2:1-12 & Titus 1:6-9

PASTORS AND DEACONS MUST BE SOBER, GRAVE, NOT GIVEN TO MUCH WINE - Do you want to be a leader for God? Would you like someday to serve as a pastor or a deacon? Would you like to be married to a pastor or deacon someday? Then establish good habits while you're young! Drinking is habit-forming. I know a godly deacon who once told me he had been a drunk before he got right with God. After he repented of his sinful drinking habit, he had walked with God for several decades; but he said he did not dare to go near a bar, and he could never keep liquor in his home because he still had cravings for strong drink. Don't start a habit now that could haunt you for the rest of your life. Learn to be wise!

Think before you drink! Choose before you lose!

I Corinthians 9:24-27 (NASB) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. 25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

Remember, your decision in this matter affects more than just you.





HAMILTON SQUARE
BAPTIST CHURCH

THE DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING COURSE

Lesson Schedule

Lesson #1	What Happens When One is “Born Again?”	Salvation
Lesson #2	What to Do When You Fall	Confession of Sin
Lesson #3	What About Baptism?	Baptism
Lesson #4	How to Pray & Why Should I?	Prayer
Lesson #5	Bible Study: Making it Personal	Bible Study
Lesson #6	Obedience Brings Blessing	Obedience
Lesson #7	Church Membership Matters	Membership
Lesson #8	Tithes & Offerings: Bible Principles	Giving
Lesson #9	Overcoming Sexual Sin & Temptation	Victory
Lesson #10	Our Lord’s Commission	Witnessing
Lesson #11	Putting Anger & Bitterness to Rest	Bitterness
Lesson #12	Alcohol & Other Addictive Substances	Addictions
Lesson #13	Music and the Christian	Music
Lesson #14	Social Media, TV, Movies, The Internet & The Future	Media
Lesson # 15	Biblical Separation: The Dangers of Compromise	Separation
Lesson #16	Bloom Where You’re Planted! Staying in the City	City Ministry
Lesson #17	Happiness Forever: The Fruit of Faithfulness	Heaven

If you have questions, ask your mentor to help you.
If he or she can’t help you, they will help you set up an appointment
with a pastor at our church. They are here to help you!