

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday
 Bible Classes.....9 A.M.
 Worship 10:00 A.M.
 Worship/Bible Study..5 P.M.

Wednesday:
 Bible Study..... 7:00 P.M.



Weekly Bulletin
 August 20, 2023

Basic Facts about Alcohol

by Doy Moyer

Some basic facts about alcohol, as provided by the Centers for Disease Control:

Under the category of drinking “too much,” the CDC says that “excessive alcohol use led to approximately 88,000 deaths” each year in the United States from 2006-2010. Excessive drinking was responsible for 1 in 10 deaths among working-age adults aged 20-64 years, and “most people who drink excessively are not alcoholics or alcohol dependent.” They further list a number of risks associated with drinking. What intrigues me is that they list “some **persons who should not drink any alcohol,**” and among them include those who will be “participating in other activities requiring skill, coordination, and **alertness.**”

Then I immediately recall...

“Therefore be on the **alert,** for you do not know which day your Lord is coming” (Matthew 24:42).

“Therefore be on the **alert...**” (Acts 20:31).

(continued)

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“Be on the **alert**, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13).

“With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the **alert** with all perseverance and petition for all the saints” (Ephesians 6:18).

“So then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be **alert** and sober” (1 Thessalonians 5:6).

Should any of this factor into decisions about whether Christians ought to be drinking? Or, to put it another way, what is the wise and discerning choice to make?

Reasons I Don't Drink

by Bryan Gibson

I don't want to become an alcoholic (drunkard), because I know what happens to them—in this life (e.g., Noah in Genesis 9:20-24; and Lot in Genesis 19:30-38), and the next (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21). Completely abstain from alcohol—that's the best way to make sure I never become one.

I love my wife and children, so I don't want them to develop a drinking problem either. My drinking could put a stumbling block in front of them (and potentially others), and that's enough right there to cause me to lose my soul (Matthew 18:6-7; Romans 14:13). Keep my family safe and provide the best spiritual environment possible—these are my duties as a husband and father, and drinking doesn't seem to be compatible with either one. Again, it's my conviction that the best course is to completely abstain.

Drinking problem or not, alcohol can still harm me mentally and physically. I know that from medical studies, from my observations of others, and from my study of the Scriptures

(Leviticus 10:8-11; Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-35; 31:4-5; Isaiah 28:7-8). Just thinking about the mental effects alone—doesn't that explain the warnings about drinking and driving? And doesn't it also explain why companies don't want their employees to drink at all during working hours?

Speaking of drinking and driving, that's something I would just as soon completely avoid. “Love does no harm to a neighbor” (Romans 13:10), so obviously I don't want to put him in harm's way on the highway. It scares me to think about killing someone because I was too impaired to think clearly or react properly. It would land me in jail, but the mental anguish might just be the worst part. But I don't intend to let this happen, because I don't intend to drink.

I worry, too, about alcohol's effect on my ability to resist temptation. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Ephesians 6:11). It doesn't take much alcohol to lower my powers of resistance, and I don't want to give the devil even the slightest advantage. I want all my defenses in place, so clearly the best course for my soul is to completely abstain. (See the previous article on the **alertness** required for all Christians).

And finally, I have to consider the way drinking could hurt my influence on others. Because I want to save as many people as possible, it's very important that I preserve my influence for good (1 Corinthians 9:19-22). Could I drink and still be that same “salt of the earth” and “light of the world”? (Matthew 5:13-16; Philippians 2:14-16). For example, if you readers saw me drinking, or knew that I drank, would you take these articles as seriously? That's what I thought.