

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY REMINDER

Volume XXIII

February 4, 2018

Number 5

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Bertha Segebarrt
Cradle Roll : Volunteer Needed!
6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: LeAnna White
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
Wed. Evening Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of January 28, 2018 -

Sunday School ----- 9
Sunday Morning Service ----- 32
Sunday Evening Service ----- 23
Wed. Eve. Service, 01/31/18 ----- 19

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of January 28, 2018 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 855.06
Total Received for Week of 01/28/18: \$ 855.06

- Week of January 21, 2018 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 902.00
Total Received for Week of 01/21/18: \$ 902.00

- Week of January 14, 2018 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,072.05
Building Fund ----- \$ 20.00
Total Received for Week of 01/14/18: \$ 1,092.05

- Week of January 7, 2018 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,398.36
Christmas Missionary Offering, Dr. Greg Waller - \$ 80.00
Total Received for Week of 01/07/18: \$ 1,478.36

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*



Please Remember To Be Faithful To Give!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

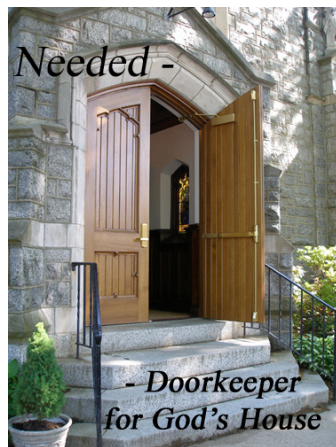
We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithes (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today** - OK? Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
Lois Mae Floyd ----- Pianist/ Organist
NEED VOLUNTEER!!!! ----- Greeter
Shayne Hooper, **NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR CHILDREN!!!!** -- S.S. Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars, ----- Outreach
Bertha Segebarrt ----- Custodian
Flowers ----- Shirley White, Charity Crawford



The Believer and Drinking

by Evangelist David Cloud

I. Introduction -

1. Most professing Christians believe that drinking is acceptable "in moderation."

This is true generally for Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Lutherans, and for a growing number of Emerging Church Evangelicals. For example, the book *Listening to the Beliefs of Emerging Churches: Five Perspectives* contains probably a dozen references to the joys of drinking. The contributors are Karen Ward, Mark Driscoll, John Burke, Dan Kimball, and Doug Pagitt. They meet in bars and taverns for theological discussions, and they exchange beer-making techniques.

2. The word wine in the Bible is a generic term like cider. Sometimes it means grape juice; sometimes it means alcoholic wine. The word wine often refers to alcoholic wine, but not always.

The following verses prove that the word "wine" can mean fresh grape juice: Deuteronomy 11:14; II Chronicles 31:5; Nehemiah 13:15; Proverbs 3:10; Isaiah 16:10; 65:8; Jeremiah 48:33. Non-alcoholic wine is called "the fruit of the vine" (Matthew 26:29).

The late Dr. Bruce Lackey said, "*The context will always show when 'wine' refers to alcoholic beverages. In such cases, God discusses the bad effects of it and warns against it. An example would be Genesis 9, which describes Noah's experience after the Flood. Verse 21, 'and he drank of the wine, and was drunken,' clearly refers to alcoholic beverage.*"

Further, the alcoholic content of alcoholic wine in Bible times varied greatly. Sometimes the wine was watered down with one part wine to two and three parts water.

Thus, when Jesus turned water into "wine" (John 2:1-11) and when the apostle Paul counseled Timothy to drink a little wine for his stomach's sake (I Timothy 5:23), this does not necessarily refer to alcoholic wine.

II. Biblical Reasons A Christian Should Not Drink Alcohol -

For the following reasons we believe that the Bible teaches that the New Testament Christian should abstain totally from alcoholic drinks:

1. *The Bible warns that wine is a mocker and deceives men (Proverbs 20:1).*

To say that alcoholic beverages can be consumed in moderation sounds reasonable, but very few drunks have ever set out to become drunks. It is an irrefutable fact that a man that does not drink at all will never get drunk and will certainly never become a drunk.

As Bruce Lackey said, "*How is alcoholic wine deceptive? In the very way that people are advocating today, by saying that drinking a little bit will not hurt. Everyone admits that drinking too much is bad. Even the liquor companies tell us not to drink and drive, but they insist that a small amount is all right. However, that is the very thing that is deceptive. Who knows how little to drink? Experts tell us that each person is different. It takes an ounce to affect one, while more is necessary for another. The same person will react to alcohol differently in different situations, depending on the amount of food he has had, among other things. So the idea that 'a little bit won't hurt' is deceptive, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise!*"

I doubt Noah planned to get drunk and to cause so much trouble for his grandson, trouble that has abiding consequences to

(continued inside)

day -- but wine is a mocker.

My maternal grandfather came from a long line of drunks, and before my grandmother married him she made him promise that he would never touch a drop of liquor, and that is a promise that he made. But one day he and another carpenter were working on a house and the other fellow talked my grandfather into having just a sip “to cool the tongue.” They both got roaring drunk and ended up in jail, and my granddad was a deacon in a Baptist church! He was deeply repentant and was restored and never drank another drop as far as anyone knows, but it was a powerful reminder that wine is a mocker.

Alcohol has the ability to deceive and corrupt. One can never know if he will control it or it will control him. The instruction in Proverbs 20:1 tells me that the wise man leaves it entirely alone.

The following is a wise statement from John G. Paton: Missionary to the New Hebrides, 1891:

“From observation, at an early age I became convinced that mere Temperance Societies were a failure, and that Total Abstinence, by the grace of God, was the only sure preventive as well as remedy. What was temperance in one man was drunkenness in another; and all the drunkards came, not from those who practised total abstinence, but from those who practised or tried to practise temperance. I had seen temperance men drinking wine in the presence of others who drank to excess, and never could see how they felt themselves clear of blame; and I had known Ministers and others, once strong temperance advocates, fall through this so-called moderation, and become drunkards. Therefore it has all my life appeared to me beyond dispute, in reference to intoxicants of every kind, that the only rational temperance is Total Abstinence from them as beverages, and the use of them exclusively as drugs, and then only with extreme caution, as they are deceptive and deleterious poisons of the most debasing and demoralizing kind.”

Even emerging church people admit that the Bible forbids drunkenness, but can they guarantee that they and their drinking buddies will never get drunk? Can they guarantee that they will not become addicted to drink? Can they guarantee that they will not tempt someone to become an “alcoholic,” or tempt a former “alcoholic” to get “off the wagon” and destroy himself? No, they cannot, because “wine is a mocker.”

Some prominent emerging church leaders have fallen into drunkenness and disgrace, which would never have happened had they not supported drinking in “moderation.” An example is Perry Noble, who in 2016 was fired after 16 years at NewSpring Church in Anderson, South Carolina, because of “alcohol abuse.

2. Alcoholic drink should be avoided because it is associated with many evils and dangers (Proverbs 23:19-23, 29-35).

This passage begins with the father urging his son to hearken to his parents and to buy the truth and sell it not (Prov.

23:22-23). The father exhorts his son to “buy the truth” by bending his whole heart and strength and life to it and to “sell it not” for any of the Devil’s shallow, deceptive enticements. This is what will protect the person from the enticement of worldly activities and places that promote “social drinking,” such as dance parties, bars, nightclubs, and taverns.

K The winebibber has poverty (Prov. 23:19-21). Proverbs counsels the young man to avoid the company of winebibbers and gluttons, because they are associated with poverty. It is certain that they produce spiritual poverty, and they often produce financial poverty as well

K The winebibber has woe, sorrow, contentions (Prov. 23:29). Many of the woes in society are caused by drinking. Examples are broken marriages, lost friendships, fall from social standing, loss of finances, car and air crashes, disease, crime, stabbings, shootings, child delinquency, teenage pregnancy, bankruptcy, and suicide. One of my great uncles was a wealthy man who owned two bars and was a heavy drinker, and one day he drove up to a funeral home in his Cadillac, put a gun to his head, and killed himself.

K The winebibber has babbling (Prov. 23:29). The drunk speaks nonsense and foolishness.

K The winebibber has wounds without cause (Prov. 23:29). The drunkard can’t remember where he was or what he did and he doesn’t know how he got his wounds. He doesn’t remember the fight or the crash or the fall. My wife’s father crashed his car one night in Alaska when he missed a sharp turn after he had gone over a bridge. He was found staggering along the road and didn’t even know what had happened.

K The winebibber has redness of eyes (Prov. 23:29). He is affected in his body. His eyes are affected; his kidneys are affected; his liver is affected; his brain is affected.

K The winebibber’s eyes behold strange women (Prov. 23:33). This is a description of the immorality that is intimately associated with drinking. The winebibber’s moral inhibitions are weakened and he is attracted to loose women. It has been said that “wine is the oil of the fire of lust.

K The winebibber’s heart utters perverse things (Prov. 23:33), such as cursing and bitterness and blasphemy and filthy jokes.

K The winebibber is careless and foolishly fearless (Prov. 23:34). He would lie down and sleep while floating in the midst of the sea or while lying on the top of the mast of a sailing ship far above the deck. The main mast of a large ship could be 200 feet high. The drunkard drives cars and flies airplanes when he is intoxicated; he staggers along on a busy highway; he enters rowdy bars he would otherwise avoid; he challenges fierce men to a fight. In July 2010, a drunk Australian broke into a wildlife park and tried to ride a 15-foot saltwater crocodile, miraculously surviving with only a leg bite. The winebibber is careless in spending money. He is careless in morals. He is careless in running with the wrong crowd. He is careless in throwing away priceless relationships and precious friendships.

K The winebibber doesn’t feel pain (“They have stricken

me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not,” Prov. 23:35). The drunkard is oblivious to the pain caused by his drunken folly until he wakes up from his stupor.

K The winebibber is strangely enslaved (“***when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again,***” Prov. 23:35). Before one drunken episode is barely finished he wants to seek it yet again. Even when drink has ruined his health and destroyed his marriage and thrown away his career, he usually does not quit. ***“It is like a deep ditch and a narrow pit, which it is almost impossible to get out of; and therefore it is wisdom to keep far from the brink of it. Take heed of making any approaches towards this sin, because it is so hard to make a retreat from it, conscience, which should head the retreat, being debauched by it, and divine grace forfeited” (Matthew Henry).***

3. The Bible commands the believer not to give offense in anything (I Corinthians 10:32-33).

I quit smoking a few months after I was saved and it was not because I thought it was inherently wrong or because I was concerned about my health; it was because I knew that it could offend others. I wanted my testimony to be pure of offence so that God would use me and I would have eternal fruit. I didn’t want to be witnessing to someone and have them possibly ignore me or be distracted because they saw a pack of cigarettes in my pocket.

If that is true for smoking, and it is, then it is even truer for drinking alcoholic beverages. It is a fact that many unbelievers think that a believer should not drink. They have higher standards for Christians than some Christians have for themselves. Consider Utah, where even Mormons believe it is wrong to drink alcoholic beverages! How would Mormons look upon non-Mormon Christians who drink?

Even the possibility that someone would be offended because of his drinking should be sufficient for the believer to put it out of his life, and that possibility is very great in modern society. Paul was willing to stop eating meat entirely in this present world if he thought someone would be offended and his testimony hurt (I Cor. 8:13), and eating meat is a perfectly legitimate activity. How much more should a believer be willing to give up alcoholic beverages, which are highly questionable at best and have the potential in themselves to cause harm (which meat does not)!

David Pratte issues the following important challenge in his report ***“The Bible and Use of Alcoholic Beverages.”***

If you drink, consider your influence on the following kinds of people:

- * Influence on young people; most start drinking because of peers and parents.
- * Influence on former addicts; if they drink at all, they will be ‘addicted’ again.
- * Influence on people to whom we seek to teach the gospel; how can we convert drunkards or people who know Christians should not drink?

* Influence on all people; 1 out of 10 of people who drink will become alcoholics and far more will get drunk.

4. The Bible commands the believer to abstain from all appearance of evil (I Thessalonians 5:22).

That is a far-reaching exhortation. Alcoholic beverages are a great evil and curse in modern society. Consider the automobile wrecks, the ruined health and early graves, the adulteries, the lewdness, the divorces, the neglected children, the abused wives, the sexual abuse, the waste of money, the gambling, the blasphemy, the pure foolishness. Look at the beer and liquor ads, how they invariably flaunt sensuality and irresponsibility.

In January 2005, the Royal College of Physicians in England warned that Britain is suffering from an epidemic of alcohol-related problems that is fueling violence and illness throughout the country (The Telegraph, Jan. 3, 2005). The same epidemic is raging throughout the world. According to an April 2010 report, vodka consumption in Russia is an epidemic. The average Russian drinks from 15 to 18 liters of hard liquor annually, which reduces the average life expectancy by a decade. For Russian men, the life expectancy is just 61.8 years. In 2014, the World Health Organization reported that 3.3 million people die each year because of alcohol. That’s more than die of AIDS, tuberculosis, and violence combined. ***“Including drunk driving, alcohol-induced violence and abuse, and a multitude of diseases and disorders, alcohol causes one in 20 deaths globally every year.”*** That’s one death every 10 seconds. Another study found that alcohol use is responsible for 1 in 10 deaths among working-age adults. That adds up to 88,000 deaths between 2006 and 2010, and the lives of those who died were shortened by about 30 years (“Drinking behind 1 in 10 deaths of working-age adults,” USA Today, June 26, 2014).

If anything has the appearance of evil today, it is alcoholic beverages, and the Bible does not suggest that we abstain from all appearance of evil; it commands us to do so!

5. There is a difference between the alcoholic content of wine today and that of Bible times. Alcoholic wine in Bible times was often weak. It was not uncommon to mix one part wine with two or three parts water. Unmixed wine was the strong wine with high alcoholic content (Rev. 14:10).

“Many wine-drinking Christians today mistakenly assume that what the New Testament meant by wine is identical to wine used today. This, however, is false. In fact, today’s wine is by biblical definition strong drink, and hence is forbidden in the Bible. ... Even ancient pagans did not drink what some Christians drink today” (Norman Geisler, Focus in Missions, Sept. 1986).

“To consume the amount of alcohol that is in two martinis today, by drinking wine containing three parts water to one part wine (the biblical ratio) a person would have to drink over twenty-two glasses” (Robert Stein, Ibid.).

“A one-ounce ‘shot’ of whiskey (50% alcohol) contains

as much alcohol as one glass of modern wine (10-23% alcohol) or as one can or bottle of beer (4-6% alcohol). Should a Christian drink a shot of whiskey? If not, why would it be acceptable to drink a glass of wine or a can of beer?" ("The Bible and Use of Alcoholic Beverages," GospelWay.com).

6. *The New Testament believer is a king and priest (Revelation 1:6; 5:10), and as such he is forbidden to drink.* See Leviticus 10:8-11; Proverbs 31:4-5.

Kelly Whiting comments: "*Both Old Testament passages focus on the responsibility of priests and kings not to pervert the Law of God and the passages identify the use of alcohol as running that risk and THEREFORE, it is entirely banned by God from their use. As New Testament believers, we are made, by the decree of God, 'kings and priests.' Old time Baptists were strong on the priesthood of the Believer, though modern Baptists almost never mention it. But priests we are, both by the declaration of God in Revelation 1:6 and by our calling to bring sinners to God by leading them to Jesus Christ and praying for them. That requires the same care in the use of the Law (Scripture) that Old Testament kings and priests were required to show. No other argument is as convincing to me because this one relies on the plain language of Scripture when compared in context. It doesn't ask me to be 'prudent' or 'cautious,' not that those aren't good qualities. ... It simply says, God declares that I am a king and priest and neither are allowed to drink alcohol. It's a simple command of God.*"

7. *We believe that the wine Jesus made at the wedding in John 2 was non-alcoholic.* It was the pure juice of the grape. Following are the reasons why we believe that Jesus did not make alcoholic wine that day:

a. It was unlawful for kings and priests to drink alcoholic wine, and Jesus was both (Pr. 31:4; Lev. 10:8-11).

b. It is forbidden to give wine to others to make them drunk (Hab. 2:15).

c. It is unwise for men to drink alcoholic wine (Pr. 20:1), and we know that Jesus, Wisdom incarnate, would not do anything unwise.

d. Alcoholic wine is a deceiver (Pr. 20:1), and we know that Christ did not come to deceive people.

e. Had Jesus given the people alcoholic wine at that juncture in the wedding, He and they would have been breaking God's commandment not to tarry long at the wine (Pr. 23:29-30).

f. Christ did not come to cause people to stumble (Rom. 14:21). The late Bruce Lackey observes, "*Everyone who has studied the problem of alcoholism has learned that some people cannot handle any amount of alcohol, while others may drink one or two 'social' drinks and stop. Experts do not know why this is true; various theories have been propounded. Some say it is chemical; others insist that it must be psychological. The fact is, we do not know for certain. In any given group of people, there would be several potential alcoholics. What a shame it would be for a person, who is a potential slave to it, to get his first taste at the Lord's table in church, then proceed*

down the road of misery to an alcoholic's grave! I certainly would not want my children to get their first taste of alcohol at the family meal, nor would I want them to get it at church. One or more of them could well be potential alcoholics. As evidence that this is possible, we should consider that some denominations which serve alcoholic wine in their religious services also operate homes for alcoholic priests! But we can be absolutely sure that Christ did not come to cause others to stumble!"

g. The fact that the people at the wedding recognized Jesus' wine as superior to the earlier wine shows that they were not drunken (Jn. 2:10). Had they been drunken, they would not have noticed that the wine that Jesus made was better.

h. This miracle glorified Jesus as the Messiah (John. 2:11). Had He made and distributed alcoholic wine to make the people further drunk, this would not have glorified Him as the holy, righteous Messiah. "*Had Christ made alcoholic wine and had the people been drinking alcoholic wine prior to that, He would have made drunk people drunker, or almost-drunken people completely drunk! Such a deed would certainly not have manifested any glory to Him*" (Bruce Lackey).

i. We know that the Spirit of God would not have put anything in the Bible to encourage drunks, to cause men to offend in sin (Rom. 14:21; I Cor. 10:31-33), but the idea that Jesus made alcoholic wine for distribution at a wedding has done exactly that. Any lush who knows anything whatsoever about the Bible, believes that Jesus made alcoholic wine and uses that to justify his sin.

III. Conclusion -

1. While it is true that the Israelites were allowed to drink alcoholic wine and strong drink on occasions (e.g., Deut. 14:26), this does not mean that it is God's will for His people to do so today. The New Testament believer has a higher standard of living. The law of Moses made provision for polygamy, for example, but the New Testament nowhere makes such a provision.

2. There is no need for a Christian to drink alcoholic beverages. It adds nothing of value to his life.

3. We live in a world filled with spiritual and moral danger (I Peter 5:8). We have great spiritual enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil. It is wise to avoid anything that would produce spiritual weakness and put us in harm's way.

4. We live an hour of great apostasy (II Timothy 4:3-4). The reason the emerging church loves to drink is that they boast of liberty and live according to their own lusts in fulfillment of Paul's prophecy. It is foolish to follow this example.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Timothy 4:3-4).

ATTENTION ALL MEN! PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE 2018 MEN'S ADVANCE



**Friday, April 27,
at 7:00 p.m.
and Saturday,
April 28,
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

The Men's Advance has been hosted by Bible Baptist Church of Stillwater for over ten years and is attended by men from all across the Midwest. The goal of the Men's Advance is to impact

the lives of men spiritually to make a difference in their homes, churches, relationships and community.

The meeting runs on a two-day format, beginning this year at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, April 27, 2017, and concluding at approximately 3:00 P.M. on Saturday, April 28. Again this year, we will again meet at the Payne County Expo Center, just east of Stillwater. Meals are provided on-site to allow the men more time to fellowship with one another, and include a full smoked meat dinner Friday night, complete breakfast Saturday morning, and a great lunch Saturday afternoon. In addition to the Advance, a golf tournament is open to all attendees and precede the Advance earlier on Friday.

The service times and break-out sessions are the focus of the event. Here, the men are challenged to examine their lives in the light of God's Word. Both humorous and contemplative skits are interspersed to reinforce the truths presented. Special music provided by the Bible Baptist Church Men's Group and others adds to the wonderful congregational hymns, including the traditional "It Is Well With My Soul" finale.

Plan NOW To Be There!