

Imminent Bible Study Series



# FREEDOM FROM ALCOHOLISM

Jayasheelan.R



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The American WWI General, Pershing said; *"Drunkenness has killed more men than all of history's wars."*

And the English statesman Lord Chesterfield said, *"An artist in human slaughter."* Moreover Shakespeare

says, *"Alcohol is a poison, men take into the mouth to steal away the brain."*



Some defend the temperance but the broader principles of the Bible demand absolute volunteer abstain from all sorts of alcoholic beverage.

The present generation is no different from older ones where people have struggled with debilitating addictive and compulsive behaviours, even thou the chemical agent may be changed.

We respect medical and scientific model to aid alcoholic addicts, but we also strongly believe that God's Word has something more to offer and find the permanent solution for alcoholism.

Many scriptures in both OT & NT reveal that alcohol always been a bait to moral, mental, physical and spiritual life. Further, an ambush menace for an individual to any given society.

Let's start with Prov. 20:1, ***Wine and beer make people lose control; they get loud and stumble around. And that is foolish. (ERV)***

## **Its effects and woes**

See how Solomon pictures the dark paleness & gives us the tale of the people who are under its influence:

*"Who gets into fights and arguments? Who gets hurt for no reason and has red, bloodshot eyes?"*

*People who stay out too late drinking wine, staring into their strong drinks.*

*So be careful with wine. It is pretty and red as it sparkles in the cup. And it goes down so smoothly when you drink it. But in the end, it will bite like a snake.*

*Wine will cause you to see strange things and to say things that make no sense.*

*When you lie down, you will think you are on a rough sea and feel like you are at the top of the mast.*

*You will say, "They hit me, but I never felt it. They beat me, but I don't remember it. Now I can't wake up. I need another drink." (Prov. 23:29-35, ERV)*



## How It further affects you?

Not just simply physical and mental casualty, God's word further says, it will...

### **Affect one's happiness and prosperity**

(Prov. 21:17; 23:21)

### **Affect moral life and deadens the spiritual sensibilities** by destroying all serious thoughts.

(Isa. 5:12, 23, also see Prov. 20:1; 23:9; 31:5; Eph. 5:18; Joel 3:3; Gen. 9:21)

### **Affects your health and makes you sick** (Hos. 7:5)

### **Affects your mind & understanding** (Hos. 4:11)

**It affects many lives beyond that of a user**, wife, children, friends, and business relationships.

**Above all it will affect your eternal destiny**, that is, their soul will be lost forever, if they persist without true repentance. (1 Cor. 6:10; Gal. 5:21; Rev. 21:27)

# Its Cure and Remedy

These days there are many concepts widely followed, such as disease & non-disease model, gradual loss of ability to abstain and 'Genetic Idea' i.e., a person is born as an alcoholic or addict, his/her first intake is a trigger and so on.

But the Bible declares that drunkenness is the 'Non-medical' and 'Non-prescribed' introduction of a chemical into the body for the purpose of 'gaining pleasure' or 'altering the perception of reality in order to cope with or escape from trials and struggle of life' - is Sin. (Gal. 5:17-21; Eph. 5:18; 1 Pet. 4:3-5)

The ingestion of this substance is a personal choice completely within the control of the individual.



Modern provision of legal and medical theory removed personal responsibility for drunkenness.

But as per the Biblical way to deal with this sin is clear: It is the willful and sinful choice of a fallen individual. Therefore 'Repent' and 'Cease' the sinful activity.

## **But there is a catch!**

When a person is brought under the control of alcohol influence, breaking that bondage is not easy.

That's why Apost. Paul warns, so strongly about being master by anything apart from the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 6:12; Eph. 5:18)

**The only effective treatment for substance abuse (alcoholism) is to recognise that it is sinful behaviour, repent of it, and cease doing it.**

This may be not pleasant, it is well known that the physical withdrawal symptoms of longstanding habits are often uncomfortable.

However, in some extreme case, such as, a person under heroin addiction or long-time continued under alcoholic will carry secondary complications, which requires medical supervision.

## Alas, the cup of devil!

What a shameful deed some of our Lord's children have committed? The worst part, they feel no remorse for kissing the cup of the devil nor hesitate to intake the pleasure of demons.

It is alright to hold the cup of wine (alcohol) in the hands in which you touch the Bible? (1 Cor. 10:21)

It is alright to give your lips to wine(alcohol) in which you praise the almighty God's holy name? (Jam 3:10)

It is alright to fill your body with wine(alcohol), which is the temple the Holy Spirit? (1 Cor. 6:19)

No, my brother, no, my sister, do not give place to the devil(Eph. 4:27), do not give place for mocker-(wine), it will go smoothly inside but in the end, it will bite like a poisonous snake.

**For Believers: How to escape from its temptation & compulsiveness?** See the noble example of Daniel in the Bible (Dan.1:8-20) He made a strong will that he will not sin against God, yes, by no means.

God honoured Daniel tremendously and advanced him to high positions because...



...he was a complete abstainer.

Daniel was strong physically, morally and spiritually. How did Daniel attain this unusual strength?

**Firstly, by Purpose(Determination)** - I will not touch unholy. V8

**Secondly, by Prayer** - I will diligently pray for victory over this social menace. V10



**Thirdly, by Self-Denial** - He had all freedom to indulge in the best of king's table. V5

**Fourthly, by Devotion** - He kept close to God by constant meditation and obedience.

**Abundant blessings follow when you honour the Lord and His word.**

**For non-Christian:** Always remember God's promise and deliverance are for all people. However, Bible makes one thing clear to both believers and unbelievers; that the repentance, forgiveness and newness of life are promised to those who voluntarily believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and come to him with sincere faith!

*"Whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation. The old way of living has disappeared. A new way of living has come into existence."* (Bible, 2 Cor. 5:17, GW)

## Frankly speaking...

*Some may claim, "I am not a drunkard but occasionally I do take it, with all its limits and hurt none, would it be still sinful?"*

Our straightforward answer would be, "yes!" Sin against God is not about the 'quantity' but 'action' that is, trespassing of His word...

...According to the broader context of Lord's teaching in Matt. 16:24; Mark 9:42 and Pauline passage 1 Cor. 8:3-12; Rom. 14:13-21. Present Church of Christ must voluntarily abstain all substance abuse(Addiction to Alcohol and drugs)

*There are no exceptions whatsoever?*

It is my personal opinion that, other than the extreme medical treatment, where no other alternatives available, in such case, may God be merciful, however, still one is accountable before God for the truthfulness of the matter. (Jer. 17:10)

*Will drunkard go to heaven?*

Why not! If anyone truly repents and believes in the Lord Jesus Christ, the blood of Christ is powerful to forgive and cleans the profound seeker!

*(If you need further assistance from the word of God, write to us via email. Thanks.)*



**"Don't be drunk with wine,  
which will ruin your life,  
but be filled with the Spirit."  
Eph. 5:18 (ERV)**



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**MCS MISSION INDIA**

1st Main Road, Singapura,  
Vidyaranpura post, B'lore - 97.