

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 13, 2012



Alcohol: What Does the Bible Really Say? (Part 4)

by Clifton Angel

What about the language used in the qualifications of elders and deacons? I hope, at this point in our building study, we have established an agreeable foundation of the Bible's general message concerning the use of alcoholic beverages. In order to agree upon this foundation, we must understand that the Bible NEVER contradicts itself. With that in mind, we see that, in giving divine qualifications for the men able to serve as elders and deacons, Paul wrote to Timothy: (1) Elders must be "*not given to wine*"; (2) Deacons must be "*not given to much wine*" (both quotations taken from the King James Version's English translations). Many justifications and conclusions have been attempted from surface observations of these two phrases. Sometimes, individuals will say that elders are to abstain from alcohol completely, but deacons can drink in moderation. It is even the possibility that some have said elders can drink alcohol as long as they are not GIVEN (addicted) to it. Will you take a deeper look at these two phrases with me?

In 1 Timothy 3:3, the original language of the first phrase at hand is two words. One is a word of negation ("no" or "not"). The other is a compound Greek word: constructed of two words. The literal meaning given by these two words put together is "beside" "wine". In it's simplest form, the phrase "not given to wine" can be translated "not beside wine". In my observation of the literal meaning of these words, no time element is given. Paul does not say how long these men should not be beside wine, but simply that they must not be beside it. Not only should these men completely abstain from the consumption of alcohol, but perhaps there is also the implication that they are to stay away from places/situations where such consumption is taking place also. The...

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).

**VISITORS,
WELCOME!**

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

5:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for
all ages & Pew Packers
on 1st & 3rd Sundays at
4:15 p.m.

P.O. Box 321

2008 Hwy. 306

(1.2 miles east of I-55)

Coldwater, MS 38618

(662) 622-7951

emailus@coldwatercofc.com

www.coldwatercofc.com

ELDERS

Billy Bland

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

Jim Jackson

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

...latter is in harmony with other passages written to Christians, such as Galatians 5:21 and 1 Peter 4:3.

In 1 Timothy 3:8, the original language of the next phrase at hand is a completely different construction than that of 1 Timothy 3:3. There are 4 words here in the original: (1) a word of negation [no, not] as in 3:3; (2) the word translated “wine”; (3) a word meaning “much” or “many”; (4) the word translated by the KJV as “given to”. The latter word can be found in other passages, translated in such ways as “beware”, “gave heed”, “give heed to”, “take heed”, “attended unto” (c.f. Matthew 6:1; 7:15; 10:17; 16:6, 11, 12; Acts 5:35; 8:6, 10; 16:14; 20:28; 1 Timothy 1:4; Titus 1:14). Interestingly, some translations contain “not **addicted to** much wine”. First, if the latter is a good translation, would it be logical to read the same implication in such passages as 1 Timothy 1:4 & Titus 1:14? “*Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies...*” (1 Tim. 1:4). “*Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men...*” (Titus 1:14). Was Paul implying that it was ok to dabble in such fables as long as one did not become consumed by them; as long as one did not dabble too much? Paul told Timothy that a man considered for deaconship must not be one who was characterized by paying attention to “much wine”.

“Much” is the greatest hangup for many. It is a commonly used word and is correctly translated. Let us consider a few things concerning the idea of “much” wine. It is very interesting that the same word can be found at Ecclesiastes 7:17. Around 250 B.C., the Old Testament was translated into the Greek Language and is often referred to as the Septuagint, or LXX, giving reference to the number of translators that worked on the major task. The Greek word at Ecclesiastes 7:17 is the same as found in 1 Timothy 3:8. “Be not over much wicked...” (Eccl. 7:17a). Would it be logical to conclude that Solomon, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was commending his readers toward being a little wicked, or wicked in moderation? Consider also what Peter said of non-Christians’ thoughts toward Christians: *...they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you* (1 Pet. 4:4). Would it be logical to conclude that Peter, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was commending his readers toward being a little riotous, or riotous in moderation, as long as not meeting the same amount as that of non-Christians? The answer to each of the two latter questions is “no”. I also want us to consider where Timothy was when Paul gave him these qualifications: Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:3). Ephesus, like many other Roman cities that contained temples to mythological gods and goddesses, was a city of “much wine”. Along with fornication, the excess of wine was associated with idolatrous practices, and so it is that we find Paul saying to the Ephesians, “*be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit*” (Eph. 5:18). Certainly it was the case that men being considered for deaconship should not be concerned with (or paying attention to) idolatrous events, or any other event, that contained “much wine”.

Finally, if elders are to be “not beside wine”, abstaining from it and places it is found, but deacons CAN drink some, what problems would arise in the elders visiting the deacons? Think about it.

Announcement from the Elders:

For the month of May, our PM services will be held at 1 PM every Sunday. May will be a “trial” month for this new schedule. The elders are seeking honest and *kind* feedback for this potential schedule change.

This Week's Daily Bible Reading:

Sunday:	2 Chronicles 9-12
Monday:	2 Chronicles 13-17
Tuesday:	2 Chronicles 18-20
Wednesday:	2 Chronicles 21-24
Thursday:	2 Chronicles 25-27
Friday:	2 Chronicles 28-31
Saturday:	2 Chronicles 32-34

Mark Your Calendars!

Coldwater VBS	June 10 - 14
Sardis Lake Christian Camp	June 17 - 23

Sermon Review

Men's Roles in the Church

- I. HIS WORSHIP (1 Tim. 2:8)
- II. HIS WALK (Eph. 5 & 6; 1 John)
- III. HIS WORK (2 Tim. 2:1-2)

Women's Roles in the Church

- I. HER WORSHIP (1 Tim. 2:9ff).
- II. HER WALK (Eph. 5 & 6; Titus 2)
- III. HER WORK (Titus 2:1-5)

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Wiley Tuggle, Betty Tuggle; Nora Boling; Herbert & Helen Bowman; Sue Cobern; Shirley Yarbrow;

**Far East Missions; OpenDoor Ministry;
Fishers of Men**

Family & Friends

Charles Easley, Molly's grandfather, is in hospice care and is not doing well. **Gloria Angel**, Clifton's grandmother, has been in the hospital since Wednesday night. **David Angel**, Clifton's dad, suffered a minor injury Wednesday night. **Wayne Collinworth**--his 35 yr old son was killed in an auto accident. **Wayne Cooper**, Jan Daniel's brother, is recovering from pneumonia. **Andrew Hagedwood**, infant that has already had a heart transplant, is improving slowly. **Mary Brett Baird**, 8-year-old child experiencing multiple health issues. **Chuck Tharp**, prostate cancer. **Eli Williams**, and his battle with cancer. **Wes**, brother of Deb Peeler, has cancer. **Ray Maples** undergoing chemo-therapy for leukemia.

Sheena Hunt; Terry DeBerry; Nicole Blagburn; Gary Daugherty; Janie Brister; Renee Loya; Lavon Holden; Aubree Harris; Virginia Mayfield; Peyton Harville; Bob Spurlin; David Bragg.

May Birthdays

5/6 -- Dylan Moore
5/7 -- Rebecca Brown
5/15 -- Andy Ratliff
5/22 -- Brisa Davis
5/24 -- Anna Johnson
5/25 -- Davis Johnson

May Anniversaries

5/15 -- Jason & Ginger Bayless
5/17 -- Joe & Leigh Ann Owen
5/19 -- Seth & Jan Daniel
5/22 -- Troy & Sue Cobern
5/23 -- Johnny & Stephanie Bayless
5/24 -- Bill & Claire Easley
5/26 -- Jimmy & Virginia Sowell
5/31 -- Billy & Terry Bland

Get Involved!

Daily Bible Reading Calendar 2012
Let's continue to read and study together!!

New Schedule "Trial" Month -- May
PM services at 1PM every Sunday
Organized luncheons following AM services.
See bulletin board for what to bring.

Providence Place Devo -- TODAY -- 2:30PM

Movie Night at Tim & Lynn's -- May 25

Independence Gospel Meeting -- June 3 - 7
Guest Preacher: Steve Ferguson
See flyer on Bulletin Board

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, May 13

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Wiley Tuggle
Announcements	Andy Ratliff
Song Leader	Jared Brown
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Seth Daniel
	Caleb Baker
Assist	Payton Jackson
	Jason Bayless
Opening Prayer	Jerry davis
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Billy Bland

Evening

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Opening Prayer	Joe Owen
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jason Bayless
	Payton Jackson
	Jeffrey Ferrell
Closing Prayer	

Wednesday, May 16

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Prayer	Andy Ratliff
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Ron Johnson