

The Sting of the Sparkling Serpent

Scripture Reading: *1 Peter 4:1-6*

A. You've heard the statistics—the kinds of statistics that could be repeated over and over again.

B. Am I more concerned with what I'm allowed to do or with what I ought to do?

I. Drunkenness is Strongly Condemned in the Bible

A. *Romans 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-11; 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21*

B. What can we learn from the wisdom of the Bible about the general dangers of alcohol?

II. Wisdom Speaks Out About Alcohol

A. *Proverbs 20:1*

B. *Proverbs 1:20-33* — listen to wisdom!

1. See the connection between alcohol and **poverty** (*21:17; 23:19-21*)

2. Recognize the connection between alcohol and **destroyed lives** (*23:29-35*)

3. Beware the connection between alcohol and **impaired judgment** (*31:4-5*)

III. “Your Eyes Will See Strange Things And Your Heart Will Utter Perverse Things”

A. As disciples of Christ, we must take the threatening of our Christian character seriously!

B. Can the Christian afford even the least weakening of his moral armor?

IV. God-Breathed Admonishments for the Christian

A. *Ephesians 5:1-21*—do not get drunk with wine, but be filled with the Spirit.

B. *1 Peter 4:1-6*—three distinct pitfalls designated by the Holy Spirit.

C. *Romans 14:14-21*—we must be concerned for the weaknesses of others.

D. *Romans 12:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:6-10; Titus 2:2; 1 Peter 1:13-16; 4:7; 5:8*—**be sober!**

E. Why would we give the Enemy any more advantage than he already has?

1. The question should not be “When am I drunk?” but “When am I sober?”

2. Our calling is to stay alert, think clearly, and stay on the Lord's side.