

# THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for *reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*" (2 Timothy 3:16)

Volume 46

DECEMBER, 2009

Number 12

## SOCIAL DRINKING OF INTOXICANTS IS SINFUL!

There are many passages in the Old Testament that condemned drunkenness "in the "Mosaic" age. (See Isaiah 5:11; Prov. 23:20-21; 20:1; Lev. 10:8-9; Dt. 21:18-21; Prov. 4:17; 23:29-35; 21:17; Isaiah 5:22-23; 28:7-8 & Hosea 4:11).

Drunkenness is also condemned in the New Testament in the "Gospel" age. (See Romans 13:13; Galatians 5: 19-21; Luke 21: 34; 1 Cor. 5:11; 6:9-11 & Eph. 5:18).

Social drinking is sinful because:

(1) It is the **first step toward drunkenness!** It may (& often does) **lead to drunkenness.** We should avoid evil in every form! (See 1 Thess. 5:22).

(2) It is condemned under "**banquetings**" in 1 Pet. 4:3. It is defined as "**a drinking, carousing**" by Thayer's Lexicon, p. 533; "**a drinking**" by Young's Concordance, p. 70 and "**a drinking together, drinking bout, compotation**" by Green's Lexicon, p. 153. Mr. Trench in Synonyms of the NT, p. 225 says "**the drinking bout, the banquet, the symposium, not of necessity excessive..., but giving**

**opportunity for excess.**" NOTE: This describes "social drinking".

(3) One cannot drink socially and "**make for peace**" nor "**edify**" Christians as taught in Romans 14:19-21. Also see Eph. 4:29; Mt. 18:6 & 1 Cor. 8:9-13.

(4) One cannot drink & be the proper **example!** (See 1 Tim. 4:12; Tit. 2:7-8; Mt. 5:16; Phil. 2:4).

(5) One cannot drink "**in the name of the Lord Jesus**", i.e., by his authority. (See Col. 3:17).

(6) One cannot drink "**to the glory of God**". (See 1 Cor. 10:31).

(7) One cannot drink "**by faith**". The just is to live "**by faith**". (See Rom. 1:16-17 & Gal. 3:11). We walk "**by faith, not by sight**". (2 Cor. 5:7). Since we receive faith by hearing the word of God, there is no way we can socially drink intoxicants "**by faith**". (See Rom. 10:17).

Yes, without doubt, the social drinking of intoxicants is sinful! Beware! (CRS)

NOTICE: We have just received the Bound Volumes of the last 9 years of The Instructor. Mailing of them will begin soon. If you want one & haven't requested one yet, let us hear from you.

## THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS # 422)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 4777 US Highway 431 S, Albertville, AL 35950.

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Periodical postage paid in Albertville, AL 35950.

## Editorial...

### HOW ARE YOU WALKING?

The word "walk" or "walking" suggests "activity; continuous activity".

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, it is used several times to denote living, carrying on our life or manner of life.

In Eph. 2:1-3 Paul mentions the "children of disobedience." He mentions the fact that in times past the Ephesians "walked according to the prince of the power of the air." Also see Eph. 5:6; Col. 3:6; Titus 1:16 & Heb. 2:1-3. NOTE: You should not walk in disobedience to God!

In Eph. 4:17-19 Paul urged the saints at Ephesus to "walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their minds..." NOTE: Vanity suggests empty or worthlessness. NOTE: You should not walk in the vanity of your mind like people of the world walk!

Living in sin or walking in disobedience is a life of vanity and vexation! You should walk as shown in the following.

### WALK IN GOOD WORKS

Paul declared that "...we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them". (Eph. 2:10). The good works that we are to walk in are the works of God's righteousness. (See Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 1:16-17; 1 John 2:29; 3:7; Phil. 2:12-13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; James 2:14-26; Gal. 5:6 & 1 Cor. 15:58.)

**NOTE:** Our initial obedience to the first principles of the Gospel involves our working (or doing) the righteousness of God.

**FURTHER NOTE:** Likewise, our conduct as a Christian involves our working (or doing) the righteousness of God. In other words, we must believe and obey God's will as revealed in the New Testament.

### WALK WORTHILY

In Eph. 4:1-2 Paul declared: "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love."

To the Thessalonians Paul said: "That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory." (1 Thess. 2:12). To the saints at Colosse, he said: "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God." (Col. 1:10).

Our vocation is to serve God. When Paul, Silas and Barnabas "were bold in our God to



speaking unto" the Thessalonians "the gospel of God with much contention", they "turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God." (1 Thess. 1:9; 2:1-2).

As we endeavor to faithfully serve God we must seek "first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." (Mt. 6:33). Jesus Christ must truly be the LORD of our lives. He must come before material things. (See Mt. 6:19-21; 16:26; 1 Tim. 6:9-10). He must come before our relatives! (See Mt. 10:34-38). He must come before worldly pleasures! (See 2 Tim. 3:4; Heb. 11:24-26; Titus 3:3; 1 Tim. 5:6).

NOTE: We are to walk worthy of our vocation and of the Lord!

#### WALK IN LOVE

In writing to the saints at Ephesus (5:1-2) the apostle Paul admonished them saying: "Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us..." John said: "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments..." (2 John 6) and "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." (1 John 5:3). He also said "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him." (1 John 2:5).

We learn from Proverbs 10:12 that "...love covereth all sins" and from Proverbs 17:17 that "A friend loveth at all times..." We also learn from Rom. 13:10 that "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor..."

For further studies along these lines see 1 John 5:2; John 14:15; 14:23-24; 1 Cor. 13:4-7, etc.

Yes, without question, we should walk in love!

#### WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT

In Eph. 5:8 the apostle Paul admonished the saints at Ephesus saying, "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light."

We must not walk "in darkness" although "the whole world lieth in wickedness" (1 John 5:19). If we walk in darkness and say we have fellowship with God, "we lie, and do not the truth." (1 John 1:6).

We "are all the children of light, & the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." (1 Thess. 5:5).

Since we are not of the darkness but are children of light, we are not to: (1) Lie. (Col. 3:9); (2) Curse. (James 3:10). (3) Swear. (James 5:12); (4) Backbite. (2 Cor. 12:20); (5) Blaspheme. (Col. 3:8) or (6) Murmur. (1 Cor. 10:10); etc.

However, since we are children of light we are to: (1) Be kind. (Eph. 4:32); (2) Be honest. (Rom. 13:13; 2 Cor. 8:21); (3) Pay our debts. (Rom. 13:13; Psal. 37:21); (4) Rebuke others. (Luke 17:3; Mt. 18:15-18; 2 Tim. 4:2); (5) Be a good example. (1 Tim. 4:12); (6) Treat others like we want others to treat us. (Luke 6:31); (7) Obey civil authorities. (Rom. 13:1-7); (8) Dress modestly. (1 Tim. 2:9) and (9) Show proper concern for others. (1 Cor. 10:24; Phil. 2:4); etc.

#### WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY

In Eph. 5:15-16 Paul exhorted the saints to "See that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

To "walk circumspectly" is to walk very carefully, diligently, accurately. The word that is translated "*circumspectly*" "*expresses that accuracy which is the outcome of carefulness*" according to W.E. VINE'S Dictionary of NT Words. In Col. 4:5 we learn that saints are to "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time."

To live as we ought to live (and thus walk as we ought to walk) there are a number of things we must not do. Here are some of them.

(1) We must not walk in craftiness nor handle the word of God deceitfully! (See 2 Cor. 4:2).

(2) We must not walk after the flesh! (See Rom. 8:1; 2 Cor. 10:2).

(3) We must not walk in lasciviousness! (See 1 Peter 4:3).

(4) We must not walk disorderly! (See 2 Thess. 3:6).

To live as we ought to live (and thus walk as we ought to walk) there are a number of things we must do. Here are some of them.

(1) We must "walk by faith"! (See 2 Cor. 5:7).

(2) We must "walk honestly as in the day." (See Rom. 13:13).

(3) We must walk "in the Spirit." (See Gal. 5:16; 5:25).

(4) We must walk "in the truth." (2 John 4; 3 John 3-4).

Yes, we must walk circumspectly as well as in good works, worthily, in love and as children of light!

How are you walking? If you are not "in Christ" where salvation is found, you cannot be walking in such a way as to please God!

We plead with you to get "into Christ" today and begin "walking" with God! (CRS)

## SENTENCE SERMONS

Some people want the front at entertainment, the back at the church building and the middle of the road when it comes to taking a stand for the truth!

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Peace often starts with a smile and kindness.

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Some people sing "Standing on the Promises" when they are just sitting on the premises.

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We must not change the message of truth, but we must allow the message of truth to change us.

\* \* \* \* \*

If God is your Co-pilot, you need to swap seats!

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