**\*\*\*\*At our recent men’s gathering (cookout) Jay Penton did an excellent job sharing a message about Alcohol...I should have asked him to share this morning but it drove me to a study of my own.**

**D.U.I.**

**Dying Under the Influence**

Proverbs 23:29-35

29Who has woe?
Who has sorrow?
Who has contentions?
Who has complaints?
Who has wounds without cause?
Who has redness of eyes?
30Those who linger long at the wine,
Those who go in search of mixed wine.
31Do not look on the wine when it is red,
When it sparkles in the cup,
*When* it swirls around smoothly;
32At the last it bites like a serpent,
And stings like a viper.
33Your eyes will see strange things,
And your heart will utter perverse things.
34Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea,
Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, *saying:*
35“They have struck me, *but* I was not hurt;
They have beaten me, but I did not feel *it.*
When shall I awake, that I may seek another *drink?*”

America’s #1 Drug & #1 Killer...ALCOHOL

You can disagree with the sermon, but you can’t argue with God!

We have a drug problem in the U.S.

cocaine, marijuana, meth, or heroine. Last week Josh Johnson broke our hearts as he shared about how heroine killed his brother and what it cost his family.

However, America’s #1 problem drug is not any of these illegal substances,

But a legal drug called ALCOHOL...**In the Bible: "Alcohol" represents all the above**

**This “Beverage” Alcohol Has accomplished much, let me share with you a few of its major accomplishments:**

**1. The Most death**

Produces more death than any other drug. Over **55%** of highway deaths are alcohol related. It causes heart probs, liver probs, and powerful addiction…a walking death!

**2. The Most addiction**

**\*\*\*\*READ portion of J.T. Jordan’s STORY (printed copy in hand)**

There are over 17 million alcoholics in America today, and rising. They, by far, outnumber the addicts of any other drug.

**3. The Most misery**

Think of the death, disability, **psychosis**, addiction…it produces more misery than any other drug.

**What makes alcohol so dangerous is that it is sold legally.**

Not only is it sold legally, but it is as widely available as a bottle of ketchup, a bottle of shampoo, or a baby’s bottle of milk…it’s just another bottle!

$25 billion will be spent this year on beverage alcohol. Not million, billion!

While it is the most dangerous drug in the world, **there is no warning label on the bottle! The can doesn’t read, “#1 producer of death”, “#1 producer of addicts”, “#1 producer of misery.”**

Advertisers will spend $600 million, quite a lot of it today, telling you that you ought to drink.

**With so many telling us why we should drink, I don’t hesitate or apologize today sharing what God says about it.**

**Abe Lincoln said, “Alcohol has many defenders, but no defense.”**

**What Does the Bible say???**

**Description of Alcohol**

The Bible simply says it is so bad...**v. 31 “Don’t look at it!”** At what? “wine”.

Here’s some controversy: what does “wine” mean?

“Wine” in the Bible is a generic term. It is a general term that may at times refer to an intoxicating beverage, or at times it may not. Like we use the word “drink.” “I gotta have a drink!” We assume they mean alcohol.

In a restaurant w/ attached bar, the waitress may ask you if you would like a drink before dinner. In that context, you understand she means alcohol.

Or, you might be traveling down the road w/ the family, and one of the kids might ask to stop so they can get a drink. They probably mean soda.

Bro. Henley may walk thru the foyer and say, “I need a quick drink before church.” We all trust he means water. (If it’s after a deacon’s meeting…well, who knows what he might mean!)

**Prov. 23:31—“look not upon the wine…”** what wine are you talking about?

He goes on to explain, “when it is red”, lit. when it turns rosy. This is a picture of what happens in fermentation.

**Destruction of Alcohol**

When it comes to the pain, suffering and pure misery , alcohol is the number 1 producer!

**1. It produces much, *Sorrow***

I cannot begin to tell you the sorrow and misery I’ve seen in people, both lost people and born-again christian people, resulting from alcohol…

I’ve seen it ruin marriages and become the direct cause of divorce.

Turn teens into rebels who ruin their lives.

Turn normally gentle/docile men into wife-beaters.

Cause children to be deprived.

Send people to an early grave.

Thru the years I’ve seen these things and developed a genuine hatred for beverage alcohol! Sorrow factor…

**2. It produces much, *Contention***

Alcohol is simply a “recipe” for fighting/arguing/divorce/violence/murder?

Time magazine: “1/2 of all murders are alcohol related.”

It drives a wedge between husband/wife, parent/child, friend/friend…?

**3. It produces much, *Foolishness***

The one who’s usually quiet and introverted…is suddenly running around the room w/ a lampshade on their head! And we think that’s funny.

**v. 29 “babbling”**

Ever listened to a drunk person babble?

**A man once said, “I drink vodka, so you can’t smell it on my breath.”**

**His friend said, “maybe you should switch to something they CAN smell…**

**…it’s better for them to know you’re drunk, than think you’re stupid.”**

**4. It produces much, *Mutilation***

**v. 29 “wounds w/out cause”**

Alcohol kills over 200,000 Americans every year.

**That means alcohol kills 8 million out of every generation.**

**We can talk about Hitler and the holocaust, which killed 6 million.**

**We talk about 160,000 killed in the recent Tsunami, and yet more than that will die in America alone from Alcohol this year!**

**We talk about the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, killing 80,000…Nagasaki, and yet nearly twice that die every year from beverage alcohol…how’s that for dropping a bomb on you!**

So, it’s more dangerous than the atomic bomb and the holocaust, and **it’s legal, advertised, and even promoted!** What’s wrong w/ this picture?

**In the 9 years of the Vietnam War, 57,000 Americans died fighting for our country. Millions protested that atrocity in the streets, completely blind to the 2 million dying at the hands of alcohol during the same period of time.**

**Where are the protesters to the World War called alcohol?**

Where’s Jane Fonda when we really need her?!

We ask, what can we do about **cancer/aids**…well, **what about alcohol**?

If it were any other plague affecting us then America would be up in arms!

**Hollywood actors would put on telethons raising money to find a cure!**

Rock stars would pack ‘em in by the thousands for benefit concerts!

Scientists would be hard at work…Rewards would be offered for anyone who could find an antidote!

Politicians would run on the platform of “stopping the plague that’s killing America!”

**More than 400 Americans will die this week in alcohol-related car wrecks…**

…many of them innocent people, victimized by drunk drivers.

That’s more people than fit on a 747! What if a packed 747 went down once a week every week and everyone died.

Would we be up in arms? Would there be a congressional investigation?

We hear the name Busch and think of gardens or a baseball stadium!

Coors has us thinking about snow-capped mountains and icy springs when we hear their name! **But it’s destruction! Mutilation factor…**

**5. It produces much, *Mental anguish***

**v. 29 “redness of eyes”—**indicates you have been weeping and not sleeping!

Sadly, people are drinking trying to find happiness and in the end it’s the one thing they have the least of!

**Alcohol offers you:**

**Red eyes/white liver/dark brown breath/a yellow streak/and a blue outlook.**

On the other hand, the Bible says, **“The joy of the Lord maketh full, and bringeth no sorrow with it.”**

**6. It produces poor *Health***

**v. 31-32 What is in the bite of a serpent? Poison!**

**Why do people drink and vomit? Their stomach has more sense than their head! Their body rejects the poison. That’s why we call it being “intoxicated.” It’s a toxin! Health factor…**

**7. It produces much, *Immorality***

**v. 33 “strange women”**=someone you’re not married to! Look at vv. 26-27.

Alcohol breaks down inhibitions and restraint. Guys know it and they jest, **“candy is dandy but liquor is quicker!”**

**8. It produces much, *Instability***

**v. 34 “tottering, staggering drunk” can’t walk straight, talk straight, or think straight…and yet the commercial calls him “the man of distinction.”**

**9. It produces much, *Insensibility***

**v. 35 his sensibilities are deadened.**

**10. It produces much, *Addiction***

End of **v. 35 “I will seek it yet again.”** They sober up and realize it’s wrong, and regret it. They agree with this message, and still say, “I will seek it yet again.”

Social drinkers say, just keep it in moderation…just one drink and then put it down.

**Chinese proverb, “first the man takes a drink, then the drink takes a drink, and then the drink takes the man.”**

**The Deception of Alcohol**

**Prov. 20:1 “whoever is deceived thereby is not wise”.**

“wine is a mocker”—what a mockery for the beer companies to have such control over America. P.T. Barnum made millions on the premise that **“there’s a sucker born every minute.”**

**Think w/ me what a mockery they make of us:**

**At many/most weddings the couple takes their glass and hold them up in the air something which is the most likely thing in the world to destroy their marriage. What a mockery!**

**A new baby arrives…same thing…a mockery!**

**Superbowl/Athletic events: who’s the biggest sponsor? And yet it will ruin an athlete.**

**Beer companies put on commercials talking about money they give to charities…they don’t talk about the money they cost us, even us who don’t drink, in crime, welfare, taxes, insurance rates, etc.**

**Experts say for every dollar they give it costs us 4 to clean up the mess!**

**It’s a mockery!**

**We drink for:**

 happiness become unhappy

Joy - miserable

Sociability - argumentative

Sophistication - obnoxious

Friendship - enemies

Sleep - can’t rest

Strength - become weak

Relaxation - begin shaking

Bravery - afraid

Confidence - doubtful

Strike up a conversation - slurred speech

Feel heavenly - Hellish

Forget - forever haunted

Freedom - slaves

Escape problems - multiplied

Cope w/ life - die

What a mockery alcohol is making of our society!

**Deliverance From Alcohol**

**v. 31-- “don’t look at it!”** Even if you think YOU can handle it, God says, because of all the above, don’t even look at it!

Back in v. 20-- don’t be together with anyone who drinks!

Alcohol is the devil’s substitute for a spirit-filled life.

**Eph. 5:18—“be not drunk w/ wine, but be filled w/ the spirit!”**

If you’re here and you’ve been a social drinker, please realize I’m not mad at you. I’m mad at the devil and his followers who have deceived you.

After hearing God’s Word on this matter, I’m sure you’re mad, too!

Some may need to go home and pour something out…

**Every Christian in the room should come to this altar and pour their heart out to God for loved ones bound in the chains of alcohol.**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*NANCY FLUTE FOR A COMPLELLING INSTRUMENTAL INVITATION**