

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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Wine is Still a Mocker

By David Diestelkamp

“Wine is a mocker, intoxicating drink arouses brawling, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise” (Prov20:1). It’s now nearly 3,000 years later and wine continues to mock and many continue to be led astray by it.

Wine’s current ploy is to divert attention from the many negatives of alcohol drinking to its alleged *“health benefits.”* Over the past decade the media has sensationalized a few studies which some believe suggest health benefits from drinking wine. Rises in wine sales and use have actually been attributed to these reports. Does a glass of wine a day keep the doctor away? The seduction of wine’s health benefits need to be countered with a stiff dose of reality.

Most findings are preliminary, require further study, and their interpretation and meaning are very controversial among scientists and doctors. Don’t be fooled by the misreported certainties in the media.

Antioxidants in wine, called resveratrol and flavonoids, are suspected, but not known, to have health benefits.

You would have to drink gallons of wine a day in order to take in the same amount of resveratrol as the mice were fed in some wine studies.

Grapes and grape juice contain the same antioxidants as wine. There is growing evidence that the health benefits of red wine are related to its nonalcoholic components.

Antioxidants can more readily be obtained from almost all fruits, vegetables and grains, as well as from supplements. “If you want

antioxidants,” writes a well-known cardiologist, *“you are better off eating a spinach salad with vegetables than drinking a glass of red wine.”*

Most experts agree that if there are real health benefits, there is still a fine line between healthy drinking and risky drinking.

Although some studies report possible heart benefits from wine drinking, the American Heart Association and other experts emphasize that there are much more effective ways to prevent heart disease.

The American Heart Association does not recommend drinking wine or any other form of alcohol to gain potential benefits.

Interestingly enough, almost every disease or condition being tested for potential wine benefits is known to be adversely affected by moderate to heavy alcohol use.

Mayo Clinic says on this issue: *“Few medical experts, if any, advise nondrinkers to start drinking.”*

Two researchers conclude: *“No one should start drinking if they don’t already drink.”* So be warned: Wine, its promoters, its drinkers, its would be drinkers, and the media are not objective in their “proof” for why they are right and why you should join them in drinking. The deceptive nature of wine on all levels shouldn’t surprise us. We know its end – mocking and being led astray. Be wise.

The Earth is Perfectly Fitted For Life

By John Clark

It isn’t simply the size of the universe that is so marvelous. The size is important, of course, but so is the design. The earth, for example, in orbiting the sun, departs from a straight line by only one-ninth of an inch every 18 miles – a very straight line in human terms! If the orbit changed by one-tenth of an inch every 18 miles, our orbit would be vastly larger and we would all freeze to death. If it changed by one-eighth of an inch, we would come so close to the sun we would all be incinerated! Are we to believe that such precision *“just happened by accident?”* The sun is burning at approximately 20 million degrees Celsius at its interior. If we were to move the earth away

10%, we would soon freeze to death. If we were to move the earth closer by 10%, we would once again be incinerated. The sun is poised at 93 million miles from earth, which happens to be just right – by accident?

The moon is positioned some 240 thousand miles from earth. Move it in just one-fifth, and twice every day there would be 35 to 50-foot high tidal waves over most of the earth's surface. The distance of 240 thousand miles happens to be just right – just an accident?

And consider these facts: The earth is rotating at 1,000 miles per hour on its axis at the equator, and moving around the sun at 70 thousand miles per hour (approximately 19 miles per second), while the sun and its solar system is moving through space at 600 thousand miles per hour in an orbit so large it would take almost 220 million years to complete just one orbit (remember the Psalmist's statement in 19:6 about the sun – *"his circuit is from the ends of the heavens"?*). What would happen if the rotation rate of the earth around the sun were halved, or doubled? If were doubled, the seasons would be doubled in length, which over most of the earth would cause such harsh summer heat and winter cold that not enough food could be grown to feed the world's population. If it were halved, no single season would be long enough to grow the amount of food necessary to feed everyone. Remember God's words to Moses: *"Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night: and let them be for signs and for seasons, for days and for years."* (Genesis 1:14); and *"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."* (Genesis 8:22).

Then there are these matters: From where does our day come? It comes from the earth's rotation once approximately every 24 hours on its axis. From where do we get our month? It comes from the moon circling the earth approximately every 28 days. From where does our year come? It takes the earth approximately 365.26 days to go around the sun. But where do we get our week? The explanation is found in Exodus 20:11 (see also Exodus 31:17): *"For in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them is, and rested on the seventh day." The week is an entirely universal phenomenon. And yet there is no purely natural explanation for it!*

Little wonder that Isaiah wrote (40:26): *“Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: He calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that He is strong in power; not one faileth!”*

About Your Attendance

By Dee Bowman

Preachers should never have to preach on attendance. It should be obvious that when a Christian does not care to attend all the services, his interest is elsewhere. It is foolish to assert that we have a passage which pronounces anathema on those who don't come on Sunday and Wednesday nights. We don't need one. All we need show is that interest and attendance are connected and that a person who is truly interested will attend.

Now you can try to explain that away all you want and when you are finished it will still say the same thing: a person who is able, yet does not attend the services is not interested in what is going on at the services. Bring your excuses, pronounce your justifications, and rationalize all you want. And when you are done, the parable of the sower will still affirm the same thing: prepared soil is the only kind which results in good fruit.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

HEAR THE GOSPEL

(Romans 10:14-17; John 20:30-31; Romans 1:15-17)

BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

(Acts 8:37; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6)

REPENT OF PAST SINS

(Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30)

CONFESS CHRIST

(Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37)

BE BAPTIZED

(Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21)

LIVE A FAITHFUL LIFE

(Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-11; John 15:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-25)