

# The Fleshly Work of Drunkenness

*Scripture Reading:*  
I Corinthians 6:9-13

# INTRODUCTION

- ◆ Last week: “selfishness” = self ambition
  - ◆ The ‘hub of all the spokes’ of the work of the flesh  
James 3:14-16 bitter zeal and selfishness results in  
“tumult and every worthless practice”
- ◆ One of the spokes stemming from self-centeredness is the fleshly work of MURDER

# INTRODUCTION

The Bible describes the fleshly work of drunkenness as the excessive use of any alcoholic beverage



In John 2:5-10 Jesus made about 120 gallons of premium wine out of ordinary water, but in so doing NEVER promoted or encourage excessive use.

# Three NT Words for this Work of the Flesh

◇ μεθυσκομαί **meth-usk-o-mi**

◇ NT 3x

◇ Definition: to (cause yourself to) become drunken

◇ μεθυσω **meth-u-o**

◇ NT 7x

◇ Definition: drunken (to be drunk)

◇ μεθη **meth-a**

◇ NT 3x

◇ Definition: drunkenness (habitually being in the state of being drunk)

◇ Μεθυσος **meth-u-sos**

◇ NT 2x

◇ I Cor 6:11 - the habitual drunkard will die unsaved

# OT Instruction on Drinking Wine or “Strong Drink”

## Medicinal uses (as a sedative, but not habitual):

- For the dying - Prov 31:6
- For those better because of circumstances - Prov 31:6-7
- For those sad in heart - Ps 104:13-15, cf Prov 17:22

## Some of the negative effects of excessive drinking

- Red eyes - Gen 49:12
- Lack of mobility - Ps 107:27
- Poverty - Prov 23:20-21
- Perversion of judgment - Prov 31:4-5

# NT Instruction on Drinking Wine

- ◇ Excessive use is described as one of the works of the flesh - Gal 5:21
- ◇ Christians are exhorted not to enter the condition of drunkenness - Eph 5:18
  - ◇ Drunkenness is not characteristic of salvation (lack of self-control)
  - ◇ Rather, being filled by the Holy Spirit IS characteristic of salvation
  - ◇ Drunkenness prevents a Christian from ordering their lifestyle properly – Rom 13:13

# NT Instruction on Drinking Wine

- ◇ **Christians can use wine medicinally - I Tim 5:23**
- ◇ **Christians can wisely use**
  - ◇ **Avoid evil association - I Cor 15:32-33**
  - ◇ **Avoid stumbling or offending the weak - I Cor 6:11, I Pet 4:3, Rom 14:20-23**
  - ◇ **Although permissible, avoid demanding to express your Christian liberties - I Cor 8:13**

## CONCLUSION

The fleshly work of drunkenness causes the lack of self-control, a part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Whether alcohol, or also today drug abuse, drunkenness is an act of unrighteousness that can lead to all sorts of acts of sin.

If a Christian uses alcohol, use righteously and never to excess!