

LESSON FOR AUGUST 27 (ALCOHOL)

I. Categories of People as They Relate to Alcohol

- A. Abstainers
- B. Experimenters
- C. Social drinkers
- D. Dependent or problem drinkers

II. Some Statistics

- A. Alcohol is the third leading cause of death in U.S. after cancer and heart disease.
- B. If 12 people drink for 10 years, 1 will become alcoholic and 3 problem drinkers.
- C. Alcohol -related costs run more than \$100 billion in U.S. yearly.
- D. The grain used to make alcoholic beverages in 1 year in U.S. would feed 20 million people for one year.
- E. Wine in N.T. times was greatly diluted with water, varying from 1-to-1 to 20-1, the average about 3 parts of water to 1 of wine.

III. Biblical Statements

A. Warnings

1. Drunkenness is a sin, Gal. 5:21; Eph. 5:18
2. See the references in Proverbs in the quarterly.
3. Those who took a Nazarite vow could not drink wine or strong drink, Numb. 6:3-4
4. Priests had to abstain while ministering in the Tabernacle, Lev. 10:9-10
5. Habakkuk 2:15.

B. Legitimate uses

1. Deaden pain of the dying, Prov. 31:6
2. Poured on wounds, Luke 10:34
3. For stomach trouble and infirmities, 1 Tim. 5:23. This verse makes it clear that up to that time Timothy was abstaining.

IV. Alcohol and Church Leaders

A. Elders

1. Temperate, 1 Tim. 3:2. Means a sobriety that comes from nonuse of wine. This also applies to the wives of deacons, 3:11.
2. Not addicted to wine, 1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7. Means not alongside wine; i.e., not a frequenter of affairs where wine is used.

B. Deacons

Not addicted to much wine, 1 Tim. 3:8. Means not giving assent to wine.

V. A Summary Verse--Romans 14:21 (cf. 1 Cor. 6:12; 8:13). Why not do the good thing and abstain?