Pillars of the Truth

Article #14

*Alcohol*

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ALCOHOL

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“Wine is a mocker, strong drink *is* raging: and whosoever *is* deceived thereby is not wise” (Pro. 20:1). “Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine. Those who go in search of mixed wine” (Pro. 23:29-30). Alcohol inhibits one’s faculties (Pro. 23:33-34). Alcohol anesthetizes (Pro. 23:35). Alcohol is involved in approximately: 30% of all suicides; 50% of all homicides; 68% of manslaughters; 52% of rapes and sexual assaults; 48% of robberies; 62% of assaults; 49% of all violent crime. (The Nat. Inst. On Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism quoted by *The Tennessean*, Sunday, Sep. 14, 1997, p. 3F). Alcohol is the cause of much tragedy in our society. In 1995 and 1996; highway fatalities hovered around 42,000 each year, reversing a trend earlier in the decade when fatalities dipped to fewer than 40,000 annually. Of these fatal crashes, alcohol was involved in more than 40%, or approximately 17,000 deaths each year in ’95 and ’96 (*Sheriffs,* Jan-Feb 1998, p. 17). “How many alcohol-impaired driving incidents occur in the United States each year? While no one knows the accurate number, the best estimate to date is over 123 million annually, according to a study published in the Jan. 1997 issue of the *Journal of the American* *Medical Association* (JAMA)” (*Sheriffs,* Jan-Feb, 1998, p. 17).

**Alcohol Is a Drug!** Ethyl Alcohol found in beer, wine, and whiskey is a depressant drug which dulls the inhibitions and decreases the powers of self-evaluation and self control. What is the answer to this great problem? “Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, When it sparkleth in the cup, When it goeth down smoothly” (Pro. 23:31). Also read Habakkuk 2:15; Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:21; and Ephesians 5:18. If you never take the first drink you will never become an alcoholic or an abuser of alcohol.