

THE
DECISION POINTS



The Bible and Alcohol

“Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.”

1 Peter 4:1

- *Arm*: to furnish with arms, to provide, to furnish oneself with a thing, to take on the same.
- *Ceased from sin*: Sin no longer has reign over us.



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“So as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.” 1 Peter 4:2

- *We now seek to live for God and accomplishing His will.*
- *Leave your past in the past!*



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“For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles...” 1 Peter 4:3

- *Before we were Christians, we lived like people in the world (Gentiles).*
- *But what did that look like?*



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“...Having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.” 1 Peter 4:3

- *Drunkenness: (oinophylgia) Excess or overflow of wine.*
- *Carousing: Reveling (komos), “A nocturnal and riotous procession of half drunken and frolicsome fellows who after supper parade through the streets with torches and music of Baccus or some other deity...”*
- *Drinking Parties: Banquetings (potos), a drinking bout. Drunkenness may not occur.*

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The Bible and Alcohol: Decisions we must make.

- *Live a life of suffering, 1 Peter 4:1*
 - *1 Peter 2:21-25: Jesus suffered. Through His suffering, we have life.*
 - *1 Peter 2:20: We must be willing to suffer.*
 - *To have this kind of mind as Christ, we must remember...*
 - *1 Peter 2:9-10: "Chosen, Royal, Holy"*
 - *1 Peter 2:1-2: Hunger and thirst for God's word.*
 - *1 Peter 2:4-8: We are part of a spiritual house.*

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The Bible and Alcohol: Decisions we must make

- *Use our time wisely, 1 Peter 4:1-3*
 - *Proverbs 23:29-35*
 - *Wine: yayin (intoxicating): Stay completely away from this.*
 - *Proverbs 31:4-5*
 - *Strong drink: Shekar in the Hebrew used of every kind of drink designed to intoxicate.*
 - *Ephesians 5:11-17:*



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The Bible and Alcohol: Decisions we must make

- *Live a life of being sober, 1 Peter 1:13-16, 4:7, 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*
 - *To be calm, collected in spirit, temperate, circumspect, abstain from wine.*
 - *Self-controlled, To be in one's right mind.*
 - *Being sober is necessary to fix our hope in Christ.*
 - *Being sober is necessary for the purpose of prayer.*
 - *Being sober is necessary to not be deceived by the devil.*
 - *Alcohol is a threat to sobriety!*

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The Bible and Alcohol: Decisions we must make

Sober

Drunk



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The Bible and Alcohol: Decisions we must make

- *Live a life of abstinence, 1 Peter 2:11*
 - *Acts 15:20, 19: Abstain from sexual immorality*
 - *1 Thessalonians 4:1-3: Abstain from sexual immorality.*
 - *1 Thessalonians 5:21-22: Abstain from every form of evil.*



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The Bible and Alcohol: Decisions we must make

- *But What About...*
 - *John 2:1-11*
 - *Do you believe Jesus lived a life of suffering?*
 - *Do you believe Jesus used His time wisely?*
 - *Do you believe Jesus was holy in all He did?*
 - *Do you believe Jesus was always sober?*
 - *Do you believe Jesus abstained from fleshly lusts?*



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The Bible and Alcohol: Decisions we must make

- *But What About...*
 - *John 2:1-11*
 - *Wine (Oinos)*
 - *Does not necessarily refer to a beverage with intoxicating content.*
 - *See Isaiah 65:8; Isaiah 55:1; Amos 9:14 (Spoken of positively).*
 - *See Isaiah 5:11; Joel 1:5; Genesis 9:20-24 (Spoken of negatively).*



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- *But What About...*
 - *John 2:1-11*
 - *The point of the text is to seeing Jesus perform His first miracle.*
 - *This is to produce faith, not justification of social drinking.*
 - *Jesus would not put His disciples in a position of losing sobriety.*
 - *How do you know this wine had any alcohol content at all?*



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The Bible and Alcohol: Decisions we must make

- *But What About...*
 - *1 Timothy 5:23*
 - *“Drink a little...” (prohibitive in portion)*
 - *“For the sake of your stomach...” (prohibitive in purpose).*



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