

Rats in the Beer Vats

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(Prov 23:31 KJV) Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

(Prov 23:32 KJV) At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

(Prov 23:33 KJV) Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

(Prov 23:34 KJV) Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

(Prov 23:35 KJV) They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? **I will seek it yet again.**

(Addiction is the result)

(Rom 14:21 KJV) It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.

Back in the radio days before the invention of TV, a prominent preacher brought a message called, "Rats in the Beer Vats." It seems this preacher toured some breweries in our country and found out a problem that was being concealed from the American public, so he decided to reveal it. Rats were going crazy over the malt and were diving into the vats. They drowned and eventually sunk to the bottom. The plants had to shut down from time to time to empty the vats and clean out the dead rats. This sermon caused an awful stir and made a large dent in the beer industry. Rats still love malt and can be found in prevalence around granaries and breweries.

Even if the producers of beer have curbed the number of rats getting into the vats, nobody can get **these rats** that I

am about to list out of the liquor industry:

Gen. 9:20-27 Noah's account on drinking alcoholic beverages

Gen. 19: 30-38 Lot's account on drinking

The earliest records of drinking alcoholic beverages were that of Noah and Lot. Noah after the deliverance from the flood became an husbandman. He planted vineyard and got himself drunk and he was naked. One of his children saw him naked and spoke about it to others and to the effect Noah cursed Canaan his son. But who caused it? Noah did. The consequence of shame was his and remaining under curse became the inheritance of his children.

Lot's daughters after escaping from Sodom made their father drunk and he was made to lie with the two of them. Drinking of alcoholic beverages caused these two bad incidences.

It should be observed from the above two personalities that they engaged in drinking after the Lord has granted them victory or released favor unto them. That is not the order of God. Any favor granted man should result to praising our God and not destroying the temple where God is supposed to be living.

Again I say, nobody can get **these rats** that I am about to list out of the liquor industry:

1. The Rat of Death

Alcohol and alcohol-related incidents are **America's #1 killer!** On April 14, 1865, a man went into a saloon in Washington, D.C. for a glass of liquor. Then he went to Ford's Theater, where President Lincoln was watching a play, and shot him to death. The guard who was supposed to be

on duty slipped down the street for a glass of booze.

On July 2, 1881, a man went into a saloon and drank 1 glass of liquor, then sneaked up behind President James A. Garfield and shot him in the back.

On September 6, 1901, a man took a drink of liquor and went immediately to where President William McKinley was shaking hands with people and shot him.

Three drinks, three presidents murdered, three men became murderers!

Many a gang rape was pre-equipped with drinking.

Alcohol and incidents resulting from alcohol abuse and alcohol related diseases are America's #1 killer surpassing war, cancer, sexually transmitted diseases and abortion, yet hardly anybody is concerned about it!

"Alcoholism is a disease" we're told. Is that so? Then it is the only disease that is sanctioned by the U.S. Government and allowed to be sold in grocery stores and liquor stores. It is the only disease permitted by law. It is the only disease taxed by our government.

ALCOHOL IS A DRUG! It is a drug made legal by our government and served in the White House in our capital. All the while this rat spews its poison of death everywhere! The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says that drunk driving crashes are the nation's single greatest killer of people under 34 years of age!

William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, said: "Drink has drained more blood, hung more crepe, sold more homes, plunged more people into bankruptcy, armed more villains, slain more children, snapped more wedding rings, defiled more innocence, blinded more eyes, twisted more limbs, dethroned more reason, wrecked more manhood,

dishonored more womanhood, broken more hearts, blasted more lives, driven more to suicide, and dug more graves than any other poison scourge that ever swept its death-dealing waves across the world!" AMEN!

The Bible says, "**Woe to him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him and maketh him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness.**" Habakkuk 2:15.

(2 Sam 11:13 KJV) And when David had called him, **he did eat and drink before him**; and **he made him drunk**: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

Based on personal determination David would have through drunkenness deceived Uriah unto lying with his wife after she was pregnant. That is what drunkenness can do. Later, David had him killed. Drinking always leads to destruction of lives.

2. The Rat of Poison

Death by poisoning! My drinking friend, you are slowly taking your life. There are thousands of men and women who are alcoholics who have never been drunk once!

YOU HAVE A LOT TO WORRY ABOUT if you drink as little as a glass of wine or cocktail at lunch or a few with the boys on Saturday night!

Alcohol is a poison and acts upon the brain as an anesthetic. The very word "INTOXICATED" means "being poisoned."

Dr. William F. Boos, toxicologist states: "Alcohol is a poison classed among the narcotic drugs along with chlorol, ethyl, chloride, chloroform, ether, tutuol and benzol.

It acts as poison acts." He adds, "Brain and nervous system

cells are the first to be affected by alcohol. After destruction by alcohol, they are lost forever. Unlike most other body cells, **THEY CANNOT BE REGENERATED.**"

Dr. Melvin Knisely, Medical University of South Carolina, stated, "Every time a person takes a few drinks of an alcoholic beverage, even a few beers or cocktails at a social function, he permanently damages his brain ... his heart and liver are also affected."

A Reader's Digest article entitled, "Alcohol and Your Brain" states that Cardiologists no longer prescribe drinking as a means of improving circulation.

The Bible states, **"If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."** I Corinthians 3:17.

The rats of poison are still in the beer vats today.

3. The Rat of Religious Hypocrisy

Isaiah the Prophet, reflecting on the sad state of religion in his day wrote, "But they also have **erred through wine**, and **through strong drink** are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have **erred through strong drink**, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through **strong drink**; they err in vision, they stumble in judgement. For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean." Isaiah 28:7-8.

If Isaiah were alive today, he would see history repeat itself. How sad that some clergymen have the reputation of being "boozers"!

The Bible says, **"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."** Proverbs 20:1

Jesus drank the "fruit of the vine" at the Lord's Supper, not "wine"; all FOUR of the historical accounts in the Bible reveal this. When offered vinegar to drink mingled with gall (a stupefying drink) in Matthew 27:34, while he was on the cross, as he tasted it with his tongue it says, **"He would not drink."**

The Bible forbids those who hold the office of prophet, priest or king to drink alcohol. Jesus holds all three positions. Wine in the Bible has NINE different definitions as to what that word means, including "grape juice" and "grapes".

Personally, I wouldn't give a dime to a "ministry" that allows the consumption of alcohol on its property or sanctions its use by its members as a permissible practice in the name of "Christianity."

(Prov 31:6 KJV) Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.

The Rat of Religious Hypocrisy is the rodent that has turned more people away from Christianity than any other rat.

4. The Rat of Damnation

Simply said, "... thieves, nor covetous, **nor drunkards**, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of God." I Corinthians 6:10.

Being a drunkard is good evidence that a person is not truly saved. Jesus Christ has delivered more alcoholics than AA, education, detoxification, alcohol abuse clinics, etc. combined. His power to transform lives is evident today to those that will come to Him. **"He that hath the Son hath life, He that hath not the Son of God hath not life, BUT THE WRATH OF GOD ABIDES ON HIM."** John 3:36.

The rat of damnation is found in the bottom of every drink! There is no life there, only heartbreak, disease, death and

damnation!

The solution to the problems brought on individuals and society by the beer vats is REPENTANCE.

(Rom 13:13 KJV) Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and **drunkenness**, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

"God is angry with the wicked every day..." Psalms 7:11.

However, (John 3:17 KJV) For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Jesus bore in His body on the cross the sins of the world, including drunkenness and alcohol abuse. He paid the price for sins, DEATH and the shedding of His blood. He was buried, and 3 days later rose from the grave as our HIGH PRIEST, and to all who believe and call on Him, he will pardon their sin debt and sins, He will forgive us and save our soul from hell and destruction.

(Rom 10:9 KJV) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

(Rom 10:10 KJV) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

(Rom 10:11 KJV) For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

The Gentiles stand on a level with the Jews, in justification and salvation

(Rom 10:12 KJV) For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

The promise is the same to all.

But how should any call on the Lord Jesus, the Divine Saviour, who had not heard of him?

Somebody must show them what they are to believe.

How welcome the gospel ought to be to those to whom it was preached!

The gospel is given, not only to be known and believed, but to be obeyed. It is not a system of notions, but a rule of practice. The beginning, progress, and strength of faith is by hearing. But it is only hearing the word, as the word of God that will strengthen faith.

(Rom 10:13 KJV) For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

(Mat 3:2 KJV) And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

(2 Cor 6:2 KJV) (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)