

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## DID JESUS TURN WATER INTO AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE?

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**I**n the world today there is a misconception when it comes to Bible wines. For example, some today believe the water Jesus turned into wine in John 2:1-9 was fermented. This theory has led people to advocate social drinking and other alcoholic related activities.

When we define the word “wine”, let’s notice a few things. First, we have the Greek word *Oinos* which is translated “wine”. This Greek word may be described as fermented or unfermented wine (Vine’s Dictionary). *Oinos*, like wine, is a generic term just as the words groceries, hardware, merchandise, and fruit. In other words just because “wine” is stated, it doesn’t mean it is already in its fermented state.

Also think about this, would Jesus advocate drinking of an alcoholic beverage when it violates characteristics that He instructs us to manifest as Christians?

**Jesus Teaches That We Are To Be An Good Example:** Jesus says in Matthew 5: 14-16 that we are to be the light of the

world, and that our light must shine before men so God may be glorified. Being the light of the world means setting a good example. For instance, would there be anything wrong with Christians drinking wine with their dinner in a public restaurant? Yes! Knowing that drinking alcohol leads to drunkenness, and such sadness as the break up of families, your example may lead others to such unintended ends. You may become a stumbling block which Paul condemns (Romans 14:13).

**Jesus Teaches That We Are To Be Sober minded:** The Greek word *Sophronos* which is translated “sober minded” suggests the exercise of self-restraint that governs all passions and desires, enabling the *believer* to be conformed to the mind of Christ (Vine’s Dictionary). For example, Paul says in Titus 2:11-12 that we are to “*deny ungodliness and worldly lust and live soberly and righteously and godly in this present day*”. Drinking an alcoholic beverage friend no doubt impairs the mind. Drinking causes the thought process of a person’s mind to change after each drink he or she consumes. Such a person is prone to commit sinful acts.

Is drinking an alcoholic beverage which impairs the mind demonstrating sober mindedness?

**Jesus Teaches That We Are To Put Off The Old Man:** Peter says, “*For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lust, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.*” (1 Peter 4:2-3). Peter not only condemns drunkenness, but he also condemns the social activities that revolve around parties of social drinking. This type of life style is not part of the new life in Christ.

In Habakkuk 2:15 the Lord says, “*Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor, Pressing him to your bottle, Even to make him drunk, That you may look on his nakedness.*” Knowing the conduct connected with drunkenness, Jesus surely would not have put His neighbors in such danger by making alcoholic wine, especially when they had already depleted the wine first provided. “Wine” in John 2 could be unfermented and still be a miracle.