

Glad Tidings

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

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Just A Little Folly

(Jerry Fite)

Solomon or “the preacher” writes, “*Dead flies cause the oil of the perfumer to send forth an evil odor; as doth a little folly outweigh wisdom and honor*” (*Ecclesiastes 10:1*). As perfume’s pleasing redolence can be ruined by a few dead flies, coveted wisdom and honor can be overshadowed by a little folly. As the same pleasing aromatic oil can be the source for the foul odor, the one who is wise and honorable will be known by his folly. It only takes a few dead flies to spoil the perfumer’s oil; it only takes a little folly to outweigh wisdom’s gravitas. A life of honor can be easily forgotten by a moment’s folly.

Wisdom’s exhortation is to never underestimate the ruinous power of folly, even if it is just “a little”.

God says, “*The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way; but the folly of fools is deceit*” (*Proverbs 14:8*). The wise are characterized as understanding the way they are going. They establish understanding based upon truth, guarding from being deceived like a fool.

Alcohol entering the blood stream through a beverage will affect different parts of the brain. Continuing to drink, one’s motor skills will be slowed; one’s inhibitions will be lessened; one’s judgment will be impaired; and one’s speech will become slurred.

The Bible warns us of the deceitfulness of alcoholic beverages. “*Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and he who errs therein is not wise*” (*Proverbs 20:1*). Be wise! Don’t look at the inviting beginnings of such drink when it sparkles in the cup (*Proverbs 23:31*); but know at the end you will be uttering perverse things (if you are not slurring too much) from a heart stripped of inhibitions (*Proverbs 23:33*). Impaired judgment will place you in dangerous places (*Proverbs 23:34*), and impair your sense of judging righteously (*Proverbs 31:4-5*). Not remembering the details of your intoxicated experience, you will seek such drink again when the alcohol has worn off, only to start such folly all over again (*Proverbs 23:35*).

The world does not mind getting drunk on alcoholic beverages. They were doing so in Peter’s day when he warned the Christian that such ways they fol-

lowed with the world must end. They now follow Christ, doing the will of God, not following and fulfilling the lust of men (*I Peter 4:2*). The Christian will not only avoid drunkenness, but will also avoid the carousings or drinking parties where the drunken state begins (*I Peter 4:3*). The Christian is to constantly be under the control of the Spirit through the Word, not engaged in becoming drunk (*Ephesians 5:18*).

The Christian is also concerned with not causing others to stumble through one’s influence. You may think you are wise enough to avoid the sin of drunkenness, but others who see you drink, or know that you do, may be encouraged by your example to drink. Not knowing their limits, they become drunk (*cf. Romans 14:21, I Corinthians 8:10-13*).

It is no big deal to some “wise drinkers” to post their picture on Facebook framing themselves with friends along with their beer steins and wine glasses. How foolish to be smiling when others may be encouraged by your picture to drink and become drunk. Your no big deal is a “little folly” that outweighs wisdom and honor! How foolish and “un-Christ-like”!