

# THE WORKS OF THE FLESH

## "REVELLINGS"

### INTRODUCTION

Joy and happiness convey fond experiences. The gracious God of Heaven has clearly set before us the method for acquiring lasting joy: Following the revealed teachings of the Spirit (I Pet. 1:8, Gal. 5:16-18, 25, 22). Man opposes God by substituting his own methods for obtaining happiness. Yet, like all human substitutions, they work only to pervert the good God has designed. In this lesson, we shall see the perversion of true happiness by observing one of man's substituting methods - "Revellings".

### I. WHAT THE WORD "REVELLINGS" MEANS

- A. KOMOS - Occurs three times in the New Testament (Rom. 13:13, Gal. 5:21, I Pet. 4:3). It denotes loud, boisterous merrymaking where those involved reject God's limitations by expressing their own unrestrained desires in song, dance, and drinking parties.
- B. Thayer writes, "...a nocturnal and riotous procession of half-drunken and frolicsome fellows who after supper parade through the streets with torches and music in honor of Bacchus or some other deity, and sing and play before the houses of their male and female friends; hence used generally, of feasts and drinking parties that are protracted till late at night and indulge in revelry". (THAYER'S GREEK -ENGLISH LEXICON, p. 367).
- C. Barclay writes, "Originally a KOMOS was the band of friends who accompanied a victor home from the games, singing his praises and celebrating his triumph as they went. Later it came to mean a noisy band of revelers who swept their way through the city streets at night, a band of roysterers, what in Regency England, would have been called a *rout*. It describes the kind of revelry which loves a man's self and is a disturbance and nuisance to others." (THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS, p. 193).
- D. Barclay continues, "It means unrestrained and uncontrolled revelry, enjoyment that has degenerated into licence." (THE LETTERS TO THE GALATIANS AND EPHESIANS, p. 54).
- E. Hastings writes, "As the band of merry-makers would proceed through the streets, they were 'offering wanton insult to every person they met.' " (DICTIONARY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, VOL. IV, p. 367).

**II. HOW THE WORD "REVELLINGS" IS USED IN THE N.T.**

- A. It accompanies drunkenness and "overflowing of wine" (Rom. 13:13, Gal. 5:21, I Pet. 4:3).
1. Vine comments, "the concomitant and consequence of drunkenness" (VINE'S, p. 293).
  2. Descriptive picture of drunkenness. OINOPHLUGIA - oinos (wine) and phluo (to bubble up, overflow).
- B. Not fitting activity for the Christian.
1. Part of darkness that the Christian must "put off" (Rom. 13:12-13).
  2. Must not participate even if the world ridicules and insults our determined change (I Pet. 4:4).
  3. Must do so if we want to enter heaven (Gal. 5:21).

**QUESTIONS:**

1. How can celebrating our team's championship become revelling?
2. How Does God address "peer pressure" in connection with revellings?
3. What two practices were connected with the ancient practice of revellings?  
How are they applicable today?