

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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September 4, 2022

“Why We Don’t Use Drugs”

By John Issac Edwards

According to Partnership for Drug-Free Kids (Drug & Alcohol Fact Sheet):

"90% of all adults with drug or alcohol problems started using before the age of 18, and half before 15."

"On an average day, 7,540 adolescents 12-17 drank alcohol for the first time, 4,365 used an illicit drug, 2,466 abused a prescription pain medication (without a prescription) and 263 were admitted to treatment for marijuana dependence, more than any other drug."

"78% of teens say they have friends who use marijuana regularly."

"11 million American adolescents and young adults ages 12-29 need help with drug and alcohol problems; 9 million of these are between the ages of 12-25."

A National Survey on Drug Use and Health by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, revised June 2015, reveals:

- Illicit drug use in the United States has been increasing.
- Most people use drugs for the first time when they are teenagers.
- More than half of new illicit drug users begin with marijuana.
- Drug use is highest among people in their late teens and twenties.
- Drug use is increasing among people in their fifties and early sixties.



According to the University of Michigan, 2014 Monitoring the Future Study, top drugs among 8th and 12th graders are: Marijuana/Hashish, Adderall, Synthetic Marijuana, Vicodin, Tranquilizers, Cough Medicine, Sedatives, Hallucinogens, MDMA (ecstasy), OxyContin, Cocaine, Inhalants, Salvia, and Ritalin.

While we do not oppose the proper use of over-the counter drugs or drugs prescribed by a competent physician to correct an imbalance of a person's body chemistry which affects his or her health, or to give protection against disease, tensions, fatigue or pain, we do not use drugs (legal or illegal) for non-medical reasons in an attempt to influence the mind and body, alter the emotions, change the senses or to escape from reality. Here's why:

1) They Harm the Body and Mind.

"Using any street drug in any amount abuses your nervous system by forcing it either to do something which is not normal for it to do or to not do something which is a normal function. Alcohol starves the brain by blocking the use of glucose. Barbiturates block the message transmissions in the brain, causing depression. Hallucinogens stimulate uncontrolled brain impulses. Narcotics block receptors for transmitters in nerves and thus effectively shut down impulses. Research shows that those who are concerned about their well-being are least likely to harm their bodies and minds by using drugs" (A Healthier You, p. 207). We are to take care of the body and mind (Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Rom. 8:7; Phil. 4:8).

2) They Inflict Harm to Others.

Drugs not only affect the health of the user but often cause behavior that threatens the safety of others. Think of those who have been murdered by drug addicts who have built up such a tolerance to drugs that they commit crime and violence to pay for their habit! We are to be concerned about others (Mt. 7:12; Phil. 2:4).

3) They Bring Premature Death.

The toll of substance abuse can be measured in lives. "Drug-related deaths have more than doubled since the early 1980s. There are more deaths, illness, and disabilities from substance abuse than from any other preventable health condition. Today, one in four deaths is attributable to alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use" (National Institute on Drug Abuse). Life at its longest is brief (Jas. 4:14). Don't shorten it by drug use!

4) They Are Surrounded by Evil.

Illicit drugs and alcohol are partners in crime. One half to two-thirds of homicides and serious assaults involve alcohol. About half of men arrested for homicide and assault test positive for illicit drugs. *"Abstain from all appearance of evil"* (1 Th. 5:22).

5) They Are Not the Answer to Happiness and Fulfillment.

Darrell Porter, star of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team, spent thousands of dollars for the pleasure and excitement cocaine seemed to offer. When telling his story, he stressed that "drugs are a lie and a cheat, because they tell you there is a quick, chemical shortcut to happiness and fulfillment. It just isn't true. I tried them, and I know." Porter later died from the toxic effects of cocaine! Drugs are not the answer - the Lord is! (Jn. 16:33; Phil. 4:4-7, 13).

6) They Are Addicting.

They cause psychological dependence or addiction. The body of the user can no longer function properly without the drug. If it is suddenly withdrawn, the body goes through a painful and sometimes deadly withdrawal sickness which may last hours or days. Paul said, *"...I will not be brought under the power of any"* (1 Corinthians 6:12).

7) They Keep One from Being Sober-Minded.

We are taught to be sober (1 Th. 5:6, 8). To be sober or sober-minded is to be calm, even tempered, cautious, circumspect, and wise in the full use of the mind and body under all circumstances to the point that good sense is shown in all judgment, reason, and understanding.

8) They Keep One Out of Heaven.

The word translated "witchcraft" in Galatians 5:20 is from "pharmakeia" meaning, "drugging, or the abuse of drugs." Thus, those who use drugs "shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:21). We want to go to Heaven!

As championed by First Lady Nancy Reagan, "Just say no"!

"WINE A MOCKER"

By Joe Price

"Judgments are prepared for scoffers, and beatings for the backs of fools. Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise." (Proverbs 19:29-20:1, NKJV).

Intoxicating beverages lead people astray from the path of sober-mindedness and self-control, to a state of derision and tumult. The "scoffers" for which "judgments are prepared" (19:29), are none other than those under the influence of wine, which is a "mocker" (20:1). The same Hebrews word is used for scoffers and mocker in both verses. Drinking wine (not to mention, strong drink) mocks sobriety, and falls under judgment for doing so.

Our passage says the person who is led astray by wine, as well as stronger intoxicating beverages, is "not wise" (a fool). God reveals the punishment ("judgments") in verse 29: "beatings (are prepared) for the backs of fools." You cannot consume alcohol without diminishing your sobriety and self-control. That is axiomatic. Inhibitions are lowered as alcoholic intake increases. Be wise, and abstain from the drinking that leads to excess (1 Peter 4:3). You will avoid the drunkenness that starts with the first drink, as well as the punishment of fools.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Robert Howard (Doug and Pat's son in law), Jerry Trimble, Aaron Posey (Phil Campbell).

LuAnne Parrish is at Tishomingo Manor for rehab after her surgery, Room: A3.
Danny Cottrell had some more stones removed this past Wednesday (31st).
Nannette and Derek Chancellor are both needing our prayers.

Our Gospel Meeting- October 9-12.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Sons Of God"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
Ephesians (Chris Reeves)
Starting Page & Question: Page #48, Question #3

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Busby
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Russell Briggs
Scripture: Acts 8:34-36
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Supper: Fred Johnson
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "When Is The Right Time To Be Baptized?"
Closing Prayer: Doug George

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

September 7th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Russell Briggs
Workbook: Jeremiah & Lamentations
(John Humphries)
Starting Page & Question: Page #60, Question #1
Invitation: Russell Briggs
Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer: Doug George



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“Sons Of God”

Lesson Text: **Galatians 4:4-7.**

- One Of The Greatest Blessings To Have A Good Father.
- No Greater Blessing Than Having God As Our Heavenly Father.

I. The Great Glory Of Sonship.

– **1 John 3:1-2.**

- How Good Would It Feel To Point To The Empire State Building, Taj Mahal, The Great Wall Of China And Say, *“My Father Built That.”* We Cannot say that Now.
- But How Much More To Say, *“My Father Built This World And Everything In It, And Even The Whole Universe!* Song: **“This Is My Father’s World.”**
- The Greatest Glory Of Sonship Is Having The Father—Son Relationship, Being A Part Of God’s Family, His House, His Kingdom, And Finally....His Home— Heaven!

II. Practical Blessings.

1. Listens To His Children.

- **Matthew 7:7-11.**
- **1 Peter 3:12.**

2. Love And Provision.

- **John 15:9-11.** God’s Love—Keeping His Commandments.
- **Psalms 147:1-12.**
- **James 1:17.**
- **Romans 8:31-32.**

3. Fatherly Example To Follow.

- **Matthew 5:43-48.**
- *“Like Father, Like Son.”* What God Wants—**Ephesians 5:1-5.**
- **1 Peter 1:15-16.**

4. Parental Correction.

- **Hebrews 12:5-11.**
- If We Want To Be Right With God, Our Father, We Must Receive This Properly.

5. Gives An Inheritance.

- **Colossians 1:12; Romans 8:16-17.**
- **Ephesians 3:6.**

III. How To Become A Son Of God.

- **John 1:11-12—Galatians 3:26-28.**
- **Romans 8:14; 2 Corinthians 6:16-18.**

Conclusion: **Romans 8:18-23.**

“When Is The Right Time To Be Baptized?”

Lesson Text: **Acts 8:34-36.**

I. What Age Am I Ready To Be Baptized?

- Does The Bible Give A Certain Age?
- Why Not Infants? Safety? **2 Samuel 12:23; Matthew 18:2-4.**
- The Age Of Accountability- Knowing Right From Wrong....
- Some have suggested: When we realize our nakedness (**Gen.3:7**).
- The Mormons say it is 8 years old.
 (“Lesson 27: The Age of Accountability,” *Primary 3* (1994), 128–33).
- Some say it is 12, based on Jesus’ experience at the Temple (**Luke 2:41-46**).
- Some say **Deut. 1:39; Isaiah 7:15-16; John 9:41; Rom. 4:15** Teaches It.
- A Look At **Romans 7:7-10**. “Know” (**Vs.7**) to come to an understanding as the result of ability to experience and learn— ‘to come to understand, to perceive, to comprehend.
 Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains Vol. 1*, p. 381).
- Not A Specific Age, But An Awareness Of Sin.

II. When You Know The Seriousness Of Your Sin.

- It Requires A Conviction Of Our Sin- **Acts 2:32-38; 40-41.**
- David in **Psalms 38:18; Psalm 51:1-4.**
- Your Sins Are Why Jesus Went To The Cross- **John 3:14-17; Matt. 26:28; Heb. 2:9.**
- Only Foolish Ones Make Light Of Sin- **Proverbs 14:9.**
- Some Were Convicted, But Never Obeyed- **Acts 24:24-25; Acts 26:27-28.**

III. When You Know The Conditions Of God’s Forgiveness.

- Hear the gospel, **Jno. 6:44-45; Acts 8:35.**
- Believe in Christ and in His gospel, **John 8:23-24.**
- Confess faith in Jesus Christ, **Romans 10:9-10.**
- Repent of sins, **Acts 17:30; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10.**
- Be baptized into Christ for remission of sins, **Acts 2:37-38.**
- All Must Be Obeyed From The Heart- **Romans 6:17-18.**

IV. When You Are Ready To Fully Commit To The Lord.

- Jesus Demands A Commitment To Him- **Matthew 16:24-26.**
 - He Will Not Share- **Matthew 6:24; Matthew 6:33.**
- We Must Count The Cost Of Service And Commitment To Jesus-
Luke 14:28-33. Like Marriage, This Is A Lifelong Commitment.

V. Then The Time Is Now!

- When We Know The Seriousness Of Our Sin, Know The Conditions Of God’s Forgiveness, And Are Ready To Fully Commit To Jesus.... The Time Is Now!
- **Hebrews 3:7-8; 2 Cor. 6:2.** As Opposed To: **Acts 24:25-26; 26:28.**
- **Acts 8:36-39; 16:33-34; 22:16.**