

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

June 21, 2009

Why I do not drink

by David King

I do not drink alcoholic beverages. It's a personal conviction that I have lived by all my life. I know that some brethren make a case that the Bible does not absolutely prohibit the drinking of alcohol, especially given the fact that safe drinking water was a rare commodity in ancient cultures (see 1 Tim. 5:23). But whether it does or does not, there are two principles — both rooted in Scripture — that guide me to steer clear of alcohol altogether.

The first reason is entirely selfish. The drinking of alcohol in any amount is the first step toward becoming drunk. So by choosing not to drink, I eliminate any risk of becoming an alcoholic and suffering the miseries associated with that condition. No alcoholic ever started drinking with the intention of becoming a drunk. Yet in all too many cases, that is what happens. And the consequences are catastrophic. Thousands die every year in alcohol-related auto accidents. Spouses and children are abused and/or impoverished; marriages are destroyed; careers are ruined; crimes are committed — all because of alcohol. My life has enough challenges without adding alcohol-related problems to it. By choosing not to drink, that's one set of problems I will never have to deal with.

The wise man gave good advice on how to avoid the problems associated with drunkenness: "**Do not look on the wine** when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter per-

verse things . . ." (Prov. 23:31-33). The only way to guarantee that alcohol will never make a fool of me is to never drink it. That policy has worked out well for me thus far, and I can highly recommend it to others.

Beyond my own selfish interests, there is a second reason I do not drink: I do not want my behavior to influence others to become alcoholics. If I choose to drink, others will know it, and will be emboldened to drink alcohol themselves. Whether or not I can hold my liquor, I cannot control whether others can hold theirs. And if my example leads a brother to pursue a path that eventually results in his ruin, I am complicit in his downfall. "It is good neither to eat meat **nor drink wine** nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak" (Rom. 14:21). In a culture where alcohol abuse affects the lives of millions, how can I lend my influence to the carnage? By choosing not to drink, I am taking a strong and consistent stand against the suffering brought on by alcohol — and that example may influence others to stand against it, too.

The debate over whether or not the Scriptures prohibit all alcohol consumption misses a greater issue: Which behavior better displays my love for God and for my fellow man (Matt. 22:37-40)? With so many healthy alternatives available, there is no reason why I need to drink it. And looking around me at the problems caused by alcohol, there are many reasons why I should not. This choice is a no-brainer: it's safe, scriptural, and contributes to a happy life.