

Heavy drinking not just a minor problem

With the state considering passing a law allowing the sale of alcohol on Sundays, a friend commented that many people don't take heavy drinking seriously and said that he didn't like the idea of allowing the sale of alcohol on Sundays.

He said his father was an alcoholic and that during his childhood, his father was an abusive drunk, and the family's only break was on Sundays, when his father couldn't buy alcohol. When it wasn't available, the friend said, his father didn't drink it.

He's right that many people don't take heavy drinking seriously; others say alcoholism is a disease that the individual has no control over. My friend was wondering if the Bible has anything to say about drinking alcohol, and it does.

Ephesians 5:18 plainly says, "Do not be getting drunk with wine in which there is debauchery."

1 Corinthians 6:9, 10 lists drunkards among those who will not inherit God's kingdom.

Does this mean it is always wrong to drink?

Psalm 104: 14a, 15 says of God,



sharon corcoran

- use it or lose it

"He is making green grass sprout for the beasts. . . and wine that makes the heart of mortal man rejoice."

God approves of people enjoying alcohol in moderation but condemns drunkenness. How do we know when we are enjoying alcohol too much?

Proverbs 5: 2 encourages us to "guard thinking abilities." Verse 1 tells us that God's wisdom will help us to do that. Too much alcohol will take down our guard.

1 Thessalonians 5: 7, 8 says, "For those who sleep are accustomed to sleep at night, and those who get drunk are usually drunk at night. But as for us who belong to the day, let us keep our senses and have on the breastplate of faith and love and as a helmet the hope of salvation."

Jesus said his followers would be light bearers; the apostle Paul in

Thessalonians referred to Christians as people of the day. This is contrasted with people who get drunk "at night," people who have something to hide.

Those obeying

God's laws don't have to hide who they are, and they don't lose their senses to too much alcohol or to drugs.

Avoiding excessive drinking is necessary in order to apply the words at 1 Peter 4:7: "But the end of all things has drawn close. Be sound in mind, therefore, and be vigilant with a view to prayers."

In order for Christians to properly worship God, we need to be sound in mind, free from the influence of alcohol or drugs. At times, drinking heavily may be tempting as part of a celebration, to blot out pains and difficulties in life or because others around us are drinking.

At such times, we need self-control, which is listed among the fruits of God's spirit at Galatians 5: 22, 23. After listing drunken bouts among

the works of the flesh in verses 19 and 20, verses 22 and 23 say, "On the other hand, the fruitage of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, mildness, self-control. Against such things there is no law."

Those who are alcoholics will likely need more self-control than others to avoid drinking heavily, and many have to avoid alcohol altogether to stay sober.

The Bible tells us it is necessary to have such self-control in order to inherit God's kingdom. It also tells us abusive behavior is wrong, whether influenced by alcohol or not.

Ephesians 4:31 says, "Let all malicious bitterness and anger and wrath and screaming and abusive speech be taken away from you along with all badness."

Acts 7:24 tells us that God defends those who are abused: "And when he caught sight of a certain one being unjustly treated, he defended him and executed vengeance for the one being abused by striking the Egyptian down."

Though God doesn't step in to

prevent all abuse when it happens, he never approves of it and will bring peaceful conditions to the earth in the future, when there will be no abuse or fighting.

Isaiah 2:4 says of that time, "And he will certainly render judgment among the nations and set matters straight respecting many peoples. And they will have to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning shears. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither will they learn war any-

more."

Wars among nations will be eliminated, as will household battles. Only those who learn from God's word and accept the fruits of his spirit will inherit his kingdom.

Whether or not the state passes a law allowing alcohol to be sold on Sunday, there will be many people who abuse alcohol, most of whom will stock up on Saturday. The only way to eliminate heavy drinking is for God to eliminate those who refuse to learn to have self-control.

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Fourth & College • 899-3605
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Service: 10:30 am
Small Group Ministries
Wednesday: Prayer and Worship: 7:00 p.m.
Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Pastor: Father Norbert Dlabal
307 W. 13th • 899-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment
Mass Schedule:
Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am
Spanish Mass: 1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398
Minister: Tony Kafka
Youth Minister: Doug Bean
Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Wednesday:
Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

Word of Life Joursquare Church

10th & Clark • 899-5250
Pastor: John Coumerilh
Service Schedule:
Sunday: Worship Celebration
and Kids' Church: 10:30 am
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Bible Baptist Church

Pastor: Glenn Hermanson
Fifth & Broadway
899-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Morning Service: 10 am
Evening Service: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO
(719) 346-7984
Sacrament Meeting: 10 am
Sunday School: 11:15 am
Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 am

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo
Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru
Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

United Methodist Church

Brewster:
Pastor:
Worship Service: 10:45 am CST
Sunday School: 9:45 am CST
Winona:
Minister: Rev. Bob Winters
Worship Service: 9 am CST
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)
Pastor: Loren Strait
Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups,
Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups,
Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship
Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing
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Kanorado United Methodist Church

Pastor: Leonard Cox
399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10:15 am

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Matthew Delp
Third & Caldwell
899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:50 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman
899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Janet Hernandez
Saturday: Informal Worship: 5:30 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Worship Service: 10:30 am

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor: Chad DeJong
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Morning Worship: 11 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: AWANA (Winter)
and prayer: 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church

Pastor: Bud Chester
Fifth & Center • 899-3450
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Worship: 6:30 pm
Tuesday: Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am
Thursday: Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center
Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969
Priest: Father Jerry Jones
Deacon: Sister Gretchen T. Good-Pankratz
Morning Prayer: 9:30 am, 4th & 5th Sundays
Holy Eucharist: 1st, 2nd and
3rd Sundays: 9:30 a.m.
Sr. Warden for emergencies during the week 899-3320

Grace Fellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423
Pastor: Bob Snyder •
Residence: 890-0134
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am
Worship Service: 11 am
Youth Group at Gattshall's at 5:30 pm
Adult Bible Study 6 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 890-6161
Pastor: Scott Grimshaw
Sunday: Christian eduction/fellowship:
10:15 a.m.
Worship Service: 9 am
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Church of Christ

401 Caldwell
899-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Arlin Cochran • 785-332-2888
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11 am

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