ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

The Getwell home front appears to have continued success!

Souls are growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and most are living in harmony with that which they have learned. We know that there is no "perfect church" because of the imperfect material with which the Lord has to work. But, we are striving to have conduct becoming of the Gospel as we follow that perfect law of liberty (Jas. 1:25).

Our success or failure will come in direct proportion to the choices we make in life. So many in the Bible made bad choices that led to their difficulties and sometime demise! Esau would tell us, "Don't trade your blessings for a bowl of soup or for something else of the world." Judas would say, "Never betray your Lord for the love of money!" Ananias and Sapphira would warn us, "Do not keep money that belongs to the Lord and then try to cover it up by lying to the Lord!"
Where in the Bible Will I Find . . .
When Christians Are To Partake of the Lord’s Supper?
Gary Colley

Sadly, many people without question accept what their denomination teaches rather than what the Bible teaches. This would not be so serious if it were not true that all will be judged by the Bible (Jn. 12:48). This action is true of many subjects, such as baptism, women not usurping authority over man, instrumental music in worship, and even when we are to partake of the Lord’s Supper. Some teach that we are to partake of the Lord’s Supper monthly, quarterly, semiannually, or annually, though the Bible does not authorize any of these times. Some teach that we can partake of the Lord’s Supper at a wedding on Thursday night, or in other special occasions on any and every day of the week. But do not be deceived! The Bible does not authorize this either! (Gal. 1:8-9; II Jn. 9-11).

Christians are taught in the Bible to partake of the Lord’s Supper every first day of the week or every Sunday, and only on Sunday or the first day of the week. Let us study and act so as to show ourselves approved unto God (II Tim. 2:15). In Matthew 28:18, after His resurrection (Mk. 16:9), Jesus said He had been given by God all authority “in heaven and in earth.” Before His ascension, He told the apostles to teach and baptize all believers by His authority. He then commanded the apostles, “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, Io, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world” (:20). This they did after they had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and had done “many wonders and signs” to convince their hearers their message was from Heaven (Acts 2:1-4, 43). The apostles taught those baptized believers what they were to practice in worship on Pentecost, when the church was established, the first day of the week or Sunday. They taught early Christians to continue “steadfastly ... in breaking of bread” (Acts 2:4). These early Christians, who were under the direction of inspired men, partook “steadfastly,” but when? Every first day of the week (Acts 20:7). This is also true today of all who follow the authority of Christ (I Cor. 11:1).
“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5, NKJV). Without the mind, we cannot be a Christian. Every intellectual, volitional, emotional, moral, and spiritual part of our being resides in our mind, which is the union of our psyche and brain. The human brain is a scientific phenomenon bearing God’s signature of design. It is filled with highly specialized cells (neurons) that are responsible for processing, retaining, retrieving, reliving, and creating countless actions, words, thoughts, and experiences. The brain aids in constructing the mind by providing the physical components necessary for cognitive, rational, and emotional thought. Thus, the brain both changes and is changed by everything we think and experience. The brain’s processes are so intricate and so intertwined that dwelling on it too long will make your brain hurt (even though the brain has no nerve receptors to feel pain). Now, since our physical brains heavily influence our minds, and we as Christians are to shape our mind into the mind of Christ, it is essential to understand the effects of messing with the brain. How does alcohol affect our brains? It will either help us in shaping our minds to be like Jesus or it will hinder us from becoming like Christ.

It is no secret that drunkenness is condemned in Scripture (Proverbs 20:1; Ephesians 5:18), It is undisputedly evident that excessively consuming alcohol causes irreparable brain damage such as blackouts, decreased productivity, diminished brain size, memory impairment, impaired decision-making, memory loss, confusion, loss of motor skills, and various cognitive impairments….to name a few. This does not mean that every alcoholic is irreparably damaged forever. Some studies indicate that partial recovery is possible for some brain damage. However, some Christians believe that while alcohol abuse is condemned, “responsible” alcoholic intake is not. A typical “responsible drink” (12oz beer or 5oz wine or 1.5oz 80-proof spirits) contains approximately 10-15 grams of alcohol. This same source suggests that “moderate drinking is defined as 3 to 9 servings of alcohol per week, depending on age, sex, and other conditions.” This form of drinking is not considered an abuse in terms of nutritional standards, but according to science, even “moderate” drinking does affect the brain.

So how does alcohol interact/interfere with the brain? When alcohol is orally invited into the body, it travels to the brain via the bloodstream and begins to interact with various neurotransmitter systems. As blood alcohol content (BAC) increases, alcohol acts as a stimulant affecting the adrenaline and norepinephrine neurotransmitters resulting in “life-of-the-party” behavior and recklessness. Another byproduct of alcohol’s stimulant is the release of dopamine into the brain’s “reward pathway” which produces pleasure. This pleasure and its surrounding circumstances are recorded in the brain; and when various neurological cues are identified, the brain begins to pursue whatever it is that produced that pleasure—the beginning of addiction. As BAC decreases, alcohol acts as a depressant affecting the GABA system, endorphins, and glutamate system resulting in drowsiness, memory loss, motor function impairment, and valium-like effects. Most studies indicate that no one person is affected exactly the same, but they all concur that no one quite knows the extent and degree to which alcohol affects the brain. The preceding explanation is only a brief, over-simplified description of some of the known effects of alcohol.

That being said, there is another manner outside of physical science in which alcohol affects the brain—social and cultural programming. Because America is a culture where social drinking is not merely acceptable, but even cited as a means for “stress reduction, mood elevation, increased sociability, and relaxation,” American brains have been culturally programmed to view recreational drinking as normal. Yet, Paul encouraged all Christians to “not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind ...” (Romans 12:2). Peter begged all Christians to “abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul” (1 Peter 2:11). If Christians are to “test all things, hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21), then let us examine the scientific evidence. Alcohol consumption undeniably affects the brain, and it affects it negatively for the purpose of conforming our mind to Christ. If we knowingly put a brain-altering, Christ-mind-inhibiting substance into our bodies simply because “we enjoy it” or say “there’s nothing wrong with it,” then we have failed to practice wisdom. Fearing the Lord means pursuing after the things that we KNOW will promote godliness and Christlikeness. Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength involves protecting our brains from anything that would hinder our ability to love God. Truthfully, one must ignore or explain away the evidence that points to the dangers of drinking in order to justify it—there are more reasons to avoid alcohol than there are to partake in it. Christians should be more apt to “Think Responsibly” rather than “Drink Responsibly.” “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts” (Romans 13:14).

Rick Kenyon
THINK Magazine ♦ February 2017
FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES

I WAS SICK AND YE VISITED ME (MATT. 25:36)

Tom Pinner is recuperating with a broken wrist.

Please continue to keep Marie George, Laura Jenkins, and Michael Miller in your prayers.

HOMEBOUND

Remember also those who are homebound: Linda Beard resides at Magnolia Creek Nursing & Rehab., Rm. 306, 1992 Highway 51 S., Covington, TN 38019-3623.

Norma Jean McCoy is at her home but no visitors please.

Tina Sparks resides at Hermitage Gardens, 108 Clarington Dr., Apt. 107, Southaven, MS 38671-5640.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS

The Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Class will resume at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 4.

BRIDAL SHOWER

Ladies, you are invited to a bridal shower in honor of June Wallace, bride-elect of Carter Ashby, on Sunday, September 2, 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. June and Carter are registered at Bed, Bath and Beyond and also Walmart.

Be sure to save the third week of October 2018 for the Forty-Third Annual Spiritual Sword Lectureship

King Of Our Lives

ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 2, 2018

Lead Singing: Pat Phillips
Opening Prayer: Raymond McCoy (a.m.)
Shannon Williams (p.m.)
Bible Reading: Raymond McCoy
Sermon: Gary Colley
Closing Prayer: Larry Pike (a.m.)
Melvin Hammond (p.m.)

OUR ATTITUDE

August 26, 2018

Bible Study 59
Morning Worship 71
Evening Worship 67
Wednesday (8/22) 69
Contribution $4,138.50
Budget $4,007.00