



Seeing What We  
believe

Mark 12:24, Jn. 4:22

Mark 12:24 And Jesus answering said unto them,  
**Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures,** neither the power of God?

Jn. 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: **we know what we worship:** for salvation is of the Jews.

# MOUNTAIN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS

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### NAME AND PURPOSE

## ARTICLE 2

### STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

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A. Conviction Regarding Spirituality

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### The Abuse of Drugs

The Drug Problem in the U.S. Is Not What We Think It Is

**William R. Kelly Ph.D.**

Posted Sep 26, 2018

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/crime-and-punishment/201809/the-drug-problem-in-the-us-is-not-what-we-think-it-is>

Titus 2:6 Young men likewise exhort **to be sober minded.**

1 Pet. 1:13 Wherefore **gird up the loins of your mind, be sober**, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

✦ A clear mind is an open access to peace and fellowship with God.

Isa. 26:3 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, **whose mind is stayed on thee**: because he trusteth in thee.

## The Sale Or Use Of Pornography

<https://www.foxnews.com/health/porn-addiction-why-americans-are-in-more-danger-than-ever>

Job 31:1 **I made a covenant with mine eyes;** why then should I think upon a maid?

✦ Pornography is a distraction of lust that leads to infidelity, fornication, and perpetual destruction.

### The Sale Or Use Of...Tobacco In Any Form;”

[https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/fact\\_sheets/health\\_effects/effects\\_cig\\_smoking/index.htm#:~:text=%20Smoking%20and%20Death%20%201%20Cigarette%20smoking,Motor%20vehicle%20injuries%207%20Firearm-related%20incidents%20More%20](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/health_effects/effects_cig_smoking/index.htm#:~:text=%20Smoking%20and%20Death%20%201%20Cigarette%20smoking,Motor%20vehicle%20injuries%207%20Firearm-related%20incidents%20More%20)

✦ Tobacco usage leads to diminishing health and perpetual deterioration of the body unless overcome, by God’s grace and personal determination.

✦ The use of drugs, pornography, and tobacco will weaken spiritual resistance, as well as damage the body:

1 Cor. 6:19 What? **know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?**

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore **glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

✦ The use of drugs, pornography, intoxicating drink and tobacco opens the door for our adversary to gain an advantage over a believer's testimony.

2 Cor. 2:11 **Lest Satan should get an advantage of us:** for we are not ignorant of **his devices.**

Jas. 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

1 Pet. 5:8 **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil,** as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 **Whom resist stedfast in the faith,** knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

✦ Church members are perpetually engaged in spiritual warfare and must NOT allow themselves to be spiritually impaired – “...**to abstain from the abuse of drugs and the sale or use of pornography, intoxicating drink or tobacco in any form;**”



Tonight, we continue looking at our church covenant regarding “Conviction.” When joining our church, we enter into a solemn, mutual agreement to act together in harmony with the precepts of the Word of God. My heart’s desire for our church, as your pastor, is to know “WHY” we should do what we do, not merely just the doing of what we do. The primary focus tonight is –  
**“...to abstain from the abuse of...intoxicating drink... in any form;”**

✦ Our first concern must always be....what does the Bible say about the subject?

Prov. 20:1 Wine *is* a mocker, **strong drink** *is* raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Prov. 23:29 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

30 **They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.**

31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, *when* it moveth itself aright.

32 **At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.**

33 Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

34 Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

35 They have stricken me, *shalt thou say, and* I was not sick; they have beaten me, *and* I felt *it* not: when shall I awake? **I will seek it yet again.**

**Original Word:** μέθη

**Transliteration:** methé

**Definition:** drunkenness

**Usage:** deep drinking, drunkenness.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2532.htm>

Luke 21:34 And **take heed to yourselves**, lest at any **time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness**, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

Rom. 13:13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; **not in rioting and drunkenness**, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

Gal. 5:21 Envyings, murders, **drunkenness**, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

## ✦ A Lot Can Change in Four Thousand Years

- The *term* for wine is not the same today as it was in ancient times.
- The *use* of wine is not the same today as it was in ancient times.
- That wine is not *drunk* today in the same way it was in ancient times.
- Terms translated “wine” in the Bible

## The Old Testament (Hebrew terms)

Yayin – From an unused root meaning to effervesce; 140 occurrences; The King James Version translates it as “wine” 138 times, “banqueting” once, and “winebibbers” once.

- This is by far the most common term for wine in the Old Testament. It is most often used of fermented grape juice, and intoxicating beverage (Gen.9:21).
- However, it is on occasion, used of unfermented grape juice (Isa.16:10).

**Tirosh** – This term occurs in the KJV 38 times and is always translated as “wine,” sometimes described as new wine (Isa.65:8) or sweet wine (Micah 6:15). The term means “wine, fresh or new wine, must, freshly pressed wine.”

- Prov.3:10 – Note that in this passage, the word translated *new wine* is that which comes out of the presses, namely, grape juice.
- Isa. 65:8 – Note that in this passage, the term translated new wine refers to the juice which was still found in the cluster of grapes.

- Obviously in these two occurrences, the term translated in English as *new wine* was in fact what we would refer to today as **grape juice**. When grapes are squeezed in the winepress, juice squirts out, not alcohol. Inside a cluster of grapes on the vine juice is found, certainly not what we would call wine today.

**Shekar** – Of the 23 occurrences of this term in the Old Testament, the KJV translates it as “strong drink” 21 times, “strong wine” once, and “drunkard” once. Strong’s defines the term as “strong drink, intoxicating drink, fermented or intoxicating liquor.” It is translated “strong wine” in Num.28:7.



Lev. 10:9 Do not drink wine nor **strong drink**, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: *it shall be* a statute for ever throughout your generations:

Judges 13:4 Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine **nor strong drink**, and eat not any unclean *thing*:

Psa. 69:12 They that sit in the gate speak against me; and I *was* the song of the **drunkards**.

Prov. 20:1 Wine *is* a mocker, **strong drink** *is* raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

There are three additional, less frequently used Hebrew terms for wine. They are as follows:

**Chemer** – This term appears only twice and is translated as “pure” once and “red wine” once. (Deut.32:14; Isa.27:2)

**Awsees** – This term occurs five times and is translated as “new wine” twice, “sweet wine” twice, and “juice” once. Strong’s defines the term as “sweet wine, wine, pressed out juice.” (cf. Joel 3:18)

**Mamsak** – This term has two occurrences in the Bible and refers to a “mixed drink, mixed wine, or drink-offering.” It is the last word for wine in Prov. 23:30, translated, “mixed wine.”

## The New Testament (Greek Terms)

**Oinos** – Oinos is the most common term for wine found in the New Testament. It appears 33 times in the KJV, and is translated as “wine” 32 times, and “winepress” once. Strong’s defines the term simply as wine.

- This term most often refers to fermented grape juice, an intoxicating beverage (Eph.5:18).
- Sometimes it refers to grape juice not yet fermented (Rev.19:15).

**Gluekos** – denotes sweetness; new wine; must;

- This term is used only in Acts 2:13. The term refers to fresh grape juice that has recently begun to ferment.
- This term would not be used of a strong, completely fermented wine.

**Sikera** – This Greek word is a transliteration from the Hebrew term shekar (*strong drink*). It is to be distinguished from oinos in that this is a wine made not only from grapes, but includes a strong drink made from grains and other fruits. This term is always used of a ***strong drink***, an intoxicating beverage. It occurs only in Luke 1:15, regarding John the Baptist.

Oxos: This term means sharp wine or vinegar. In each of its seven occurrences, it is translated “vinegar” (John 19:29,30).

- ✦ This list of terms is essential because some have claimed that there is **only one kind of wine in the Bible**.
- ✦ While wine is a general term, there is NOT only one kind of wine in the Bible.
- ❖ In Old English, as in the ancient Hebrew and Greek, wine did NOT always refer to a fermented, alcoholic beverage.

- ❖ The term COULD refer to either unfermented, sweet grape juice OR fermented grape juice.
- ❖ In AD 60 Plutarch wrote, “Filtered wine neither inflames the brain nor infects the mind and the passions, and is much more pleasant to drink.”
- ❖ Thus, when we read the word “wine” in our English Bible, *we should NOT assume* that it must refer to the same kind of alcoholic beverage that we call wine today.

❖ **Strong drink always refers to alcoholic content.**

The other terms do not necessarily imply an intoxicating beverage. Thus, it is incumbent upon the interpreter to consider the following:

➤ Determine which Greek or Hebrew term stands behind the English translation.

➤ Consider the context.

➤ Consider the customs of the day.

❖ For example, the Greek term *oinos* could be used for EITHER alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverage.

Eph. 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Mt. 9:17 Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.

- SOMETIMES, “wine” refers to grape juice. In some passages it refers to a partially fermented grape juice or sweet wine. And of course, it OFTEN refers to an intoxicating beverage.

<https://www.salembible.org/wine-strong-drink-in-the-bible-part-1/#:~:text=Sikera%20%5Bix%5D%3A%20%20This%20Greek%20word%20is%20a,intoxicating%20beverage.%20It%20occurs%20only%20in%20Luke%201%3A15>

[%20This%20Greek%20word%20is%20a,intoxicating%20beverage.%20It%20occurs%20only%20in%20Luke%201%3A15](https://www.salembible.org/wine-strong-drink-in-the-bible-part-1/#:~:text=Sikera%20%5Bix%5D%3A%20%20This%20Greek%20word%20is%20a,intoxicating%20beverage.%20It%20occurs%20only%20in%20Luke%201%3A15)



1 Pet. 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves likewise with the same mind**: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

2 That he **no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.**

3 For **the time past of *our* life** may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

- Those in place of spiritual leadership must abstain from the influence of alcohol.

1 Tim. 3:1 This *is* a true saying, If a man desire **the office of a bishop**, he desireth a good work...

3 **Not given to wine**, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; ...

8 Likewise *must* the **deacons** *be* grave, not doubletongued, **not given to much wine**, not greedy of filthy lucre;

Eph. 5:15 See then that ye **walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,**

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Wherefore **be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.**

18 And **be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;**

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody **in your heart to the Lord;**

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

- What do health experts say about consumption of alcohol?

In the United States, one “standard” drink has about 14 grams of pure alcohol. This is generally the amount in:

- 12 ounces of regular beer -- that’s a regular can (usually 5% alcohol)
- 5 ounces of wine (usually 12% alcohol)
- 1.5 ounces of distilled spirits (usually about 40% alcohol)

## How Much Alcohol is Too Much?

There are weekly “upper limits” for healthy adults:

- **Men:** Four drinks in one day or 14 per week
- **Women:** Three drinks in one day or seven per week

## **What Does Risky Drinking Do to My Health?**

Over time, it can damage your body. It can affect your liver, causing inflammation (alcoholic hepatitis). It could lead to scarring of your liver (cirrhosis), which can be life-threatening.

Risky drinking can also increase your risk of stroke, damage your heart muscle (cardiomyopathy), and increase your blood pressure. It also has been linked to several different kinds of cancer.

<https://www.webmd.com/mental-health/addiction/risky-drinking#1>

**Liver Damage**

**Heart Disease**

**Brain and Nervous System Problems**

**Anemia**

**Cancer**

**Seizures**

**Gout**

**Infections**

**Digestive Problems**

**Sleep**

**<https://www.webmd.com/mental-health/addiction/addiction-heavy-drinking#2>**

- Recent statistics indicate 105,000 Americans die each year in alcohol related deaths. It is also estimated that 18 million Americans are either alcohol dependent or suffer from alcohol abuse.

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/why-the-christian-should-abstain-from-alcohol-and-drugs-bruce-ferris-sermon-on-addiction-87318>

- Moderate drinking? How about moderate pornography or moderate heroin use or moderate lying or moderate adultery?

<https://lifeishere.org/50-reasons-why-christians-shouldnt-drink/>

- More than one-half of American adults have a close family member who has or has had alcoholism.
- Alcohol is a factor in nearly half of America's murders, suicides and accidental deaths.
- The highest rates of current and past year heavy alcohol use are reported by workers in the following occupations: construction, food preparation and waiters/waitresses, along with auto mechanics, vehicle repairers, light truck drivers and laborers. 95% of alcoholics die from their disease and die approximately 26 years earlier than their normal life expectancy.



- Up to 40% of industrial fatalities and 47% of injuries in the workplace are linked to alcohol consumption and alcoholism.
- Absenteeism among alcoholics or problem drinkers is 3.8 to 8.3 times greater than normal.
- More than three fourths of female victims of nonfatal, domestic violence reported that their assailant had been drinking or using drugs.
- More than one third of pedestrians killed by automobiles were legally drunk.

- About half of state prison inmates and 40% of federal prisoners incarcerated for committing violent crimes report they were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of their offense.
- Long-term, heavy alcohol use is the leading cause of illness and death from liver disease in the U.S.
- Alcoholics spend four times the amount of time in a hospital as non-drinkers, mostly from drinking-related injuries.

**Probably the most telling is the last statistic: 95% of alcoholics die from their disease and die approximately 26 years earlier than their normal life expectancy.**

<https://thedailyhatch.org/2012/11/15/adrian-rogers-on-wisdom-from-proverbs-on-alcohol/#:~:text=Distillation%20was%20not%20discovered%20until%20about%201500%20A.D.,Christi an%20should%20drink%20hard%20liquor-that%20is%20apparent%20%21>

- The world recognizes the dangers of alcoholism, but rebellious “believers” do NOT believe – hence the disobedience to the Lord and His Word.

### Summary

In his 2002 article, “Seven Good Reasons Christians Should Not Drink” Pastor David L. Brown, Ph.D. offers these things to ponder:

- 1. Drinking leads to drunkenness. (Isaiah 5:11)**
- 2. The Bible condemns strong drink. (Proverbs 20:1, etc.)**

**3. In Biblical times what Christians drank was sub-alcoholic, basically purified water. (1 Timothy 3:3 & 8)**

Norman Geisler, former Dean of Liberty Center for Christian Scholarship, Liberty University, has written: “Many wine drinking Christians today mistakenly assume that what the New Testament meant by wine is identical to wine used today. This, however, is false. In fact, what the Bible frequently meant by wine was basically purified water,” purified by adding some alcoholic wine. The Holman Bible dictionary says, wine was also used as a medicine and disinfectant. Geisler goes on to say, “Therefore, Christians ought not to drink wine, beer or other alcoholic beverages for they

are actually strong drink forbidden in Scripture. Even ancient pagans did not drink what some Christians drink today.”

**4. It will cause others to stumble.** (Romans 14:21)

**5. It harms our bodies which are the Lord's** (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, etc.)

**6. Alcohol is addictive.** 1 Corinthians 6:12 (Ephesians 5:18) (Proverbs 23:35).

**7. Believers are kings and priests separated unto God.** (Proverbs 31:4-5) (Leviticus 10:9) (1 Peter 2:9). (1 Peter 2:5).

<https://seneesealegilbert.wordpress.com/tag/mark-t-barclay/>

## Conclusion

Isa. 5:20 **Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil;** that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

21 **Woe unto *them that are wise in their own eyes,*** and prudent in their own sight!

22 **Woe unto *them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink:***

23 Which **justify the wicked for reward,** and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!

24 Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: **because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.**

25 **Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them:** and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses *were* torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand *is* stretched out still.