



# DRINK IS DESTROYING OUR NATION

FAMILY bars that supplant the family altars launch homes on their way toward moral, physical and spiritual disaster. Morally and spiritually our nation will be lost unless there is a radical change for sobriety.

The Word of God, which never fails, declares the fate of the drunkards: "Murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in times past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:21).

Our society has been led to believe, by the liquor trade, that drinking liquor is the "peak of pleasure" and that offering drinks to guests is "genuine hospitality," the socially correct thing to do.

Glamorous billboards, magazine advertisements and advertising during many prime-time television programs suggest that drinking promotes exciting experiences and causes one to achieve more success, sophistication, and desirability. So the message is sent, and society, including teenagers, receives it: Alcohol is good! Enjoy it soon!

Young people growing up in our culture get the overwhelming impression that drinking is all pleasure, fun, and adult. They observe their parents using alcohol and expect to share in their practice. Parents who drink regularly generally allow their children to sample drinks from time to time, early giving them a taste for alcoholic beverages. A child who sees alcohol used to escape tension and create a good mood will think it is a natural thing to do. He will quickly adopt the ideas taught by his parents' lifestyle. Even if the parents say they want their children to abstain, they cannot expect the children to be more disciplined than they are.

## Tragic Results

Not advertised or actively taught are the consequences of drink — the millions of broken homes, abandoned children, criminal youth, debased womanhood, prison cells, suicide, and human scrap piles that lie at the end of the drinker's road.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science published a report stating that "alcohol is a poison, a narcotic, and should be sold only in bottles marked 'poison.' " It is the most deadly killer in the western world.

A judge in a superior court has said that 90 percent of all criminal cases tried before him had liquor in the background. A parole officer, after interviewing hundreds of convicts, reported that 75 percent of the men convicted of robbery had committed their crimes while fortified with liquor; 86 percent of those who issued worthless checks were also under the influence of liquor, and cashed most of their checks in bars; 98 percent of the men convicted of sex crimes committed their crimes while under the influence of liquor. Our boasted "American Way of Life" gives government sanction, through licenses, to this continuous source of crime.

FBI statistics show that 206,607 youngsters under 21 were arrested in 1976 for violation of liquor laws and nearly 145,000, including 240 children 10 and younger, were picked up on charges of drunkenness. School officials report that drinking by pupils has led to fights, vandalism and a curtailment of extracurricular activities.

And then there is the deadly combination of drinking and driving. Problem drinkers cause more deaths on the highway than any other factor. And they continue to drive even if their licenses have been revoked. It has been reported that every 20 minutes a drinking driver causes an accident or kills a person. Between 70 and 80 percent of the adults in the United States drink some form of alcohol. About one out of eleven of these is an alcoholic — about nine million alcoholics in our country!

## Diseases Caused by Alcohol

Drinking of alcoholic beverages has become one of America's top health problems, along with cancer, heart disease and mental illness.

Most people are aware that alcoholism can produce cirrhosis of the liver, but many may not realize that it also causes malnutrition, brain impairment, stomach injuries, destruction of bone tissues, anemia, inability to fight disease, mental and nervous disorders, personality deterioration —the list goes on and on.

Dr. Ernest F. Noble, Director of the NIAAA, says, "We've ignored the fact that alcohol is a dangerous drug. It's the dirtiest drug. By that I mean that no tissue in the body escapes its effects."

In February 1979, the government said it may require warning labels on bottles of beer, wine and other liquors, that pregnant women run the risk of having deformed babies if they drink. More than two drinks a day could cause both mental and physical impairment. This risk exists even for occasional "binge drinkers."

Reflexes, thinking processes and coordination are affected by alcohol as by any depressant drug. They merely insulate people from contact with their problems. They can cover the mental effects of a wide range of problems, but the cause is still there.

## **Cost**

Alcohol costs the taxpayers approximately \$10,000 per year for each alcoholic and problem drinker. And except for minor traffic offenses, drunkenness is the most common crime in the United States, resulting in further crowded court conditions and spiraling court costs.

## **Alcoholics in All Classes**

Alcoholics are found in all social classes, races, ethnic and religious groups and in all occupations. Ninety-five percent of the alcoholics are not skid row types. They are intelligent men and women between 30 and 55, 45 percent of them on the professional and executive level. Many of these started as social drinkers.

The resulting loss of expertise and experience on the executive level is enormous. In one survey of 500 business executives, 18 percent of them admitted their problem was a worry to them. The percentages went up with the level of position. These are the people making major business decisions! Is There Hope?

Millions of these alcoholic slaves will never be set free. But the enslavement of other millions could be prevented if sober people would rise up and declare to the government that they will no longer tolerate the temptations perpetrated by the liquor industry through advertising their wares to our society.

It is true that many alcoholics have been cured through various programs and methods, but a desire on the part of the victim to be delivered from his helpless state is first necessary. Few alcoholics try to do anything to remedy their situation, and end up drinking themselves to death.

A basic need for every drinker who wishes to recover is someone in whom he can trust; and who is more trustworthy than the Lord Jesus Christ? He understands and cares. And His purpose for coming to this earth was to bring deliverance to those whom Satan has bound. Jesus said of Himself:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised . . ." (Luke 4:18).

And again we read:

"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (I John 3:8).

## **Deliverance**

If you have been caught in Satan's trap, Jesus Christ can solve all your problems. Go to Him in humility. Ask Him for deliverance — not only from alcoholism but from all your sins. When you come in true repentance, He will welcome you with open arms. He will pardon all your sins, and cleanse you from all unrighteousness.

We have known many people who were alcoholics, helpless in sin until they turned their lives over to the Lord and gave Him first place in their hearts. Then what a transformation! Instantly delivered from the very craving for alcohol. They were new creatures in Christ Jesus. Old things had passed away and all things had become new. They again became productive members of society. And best of all, they were on their way to Heaven!

Testimonies of some of those we have known who enjoyed such deliverance are printed by the Apostolic Faith Church under the titles: "An Atheist Meets God in a Sawmill," "From the Cattle Ranges of Idaho," "From Bowling Alley to Pulpit," "Our Unforgettable Brother Charlie," "That First Drink," "From Skidroads to the Jericho Road," "In the Days of Wooden Ships and Iron Men," "I've Anchored My Soul," "In Time for God's Roll Call."