

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 15, 2012



## Alcohol: What Does the Bible Really Say? (Part 1)

by Clifton Angel

“Jesus turned water to wine.” “Paul told Timothy to use a little wine for his stomach.” “The Bible does not condemn drinking, only drunkenness.” “Paul told Timothy that deacons cannot be given to *much* wine.” We have heard the claims that the world and even God’s children have made to seek justification for drinking “socially”, in “moderation”, or “in the privacy” of their home. They reference the Bible for their justification, but such references are only mentioned in passing and are rarely looked at in detail. What does the Bible really say?

**Jesus DID turn water into wine.** It is true. John 2 tells us so. Furthermore, Jesus did not just turn water into wine, but according to the measurement given in John 2:6, A.T. Robertson says he turned about 120 gallons of water into wine (*Word Pictures*)! That is an abundance of any kind of beverage! However, will you consider with me this occasion, what was said, and some inferences that must be made based upon the Bible as a whole? For the Psalmist said, “*The sum of Thy Word is truth*” (Psalm 119:160, ASV).

It is first assumed that Jesus made intoxicating wine. Such an assumption is first taken because of the use of the word “wine”. However, when we study the Bible, we will find that the word “wine” does not ALWAYS have reference to an intoxicating beverage. In fact, in the Old Testament book of Isaiah, we find that the Bible says concerning wine,...

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*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).*

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**VISITORS,  
WELCOME!**

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Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

5:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for  
all ages & Pew Packers  
on 1st & 3rd Sundays at  
4:15 p.m.

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### ELDERS

Billy Bland

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

Jim Jackson

### DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

### PREACHER

Clifton Angel

... *“Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants’ sakes, that I may not destroy them all”* (Isaiah 65:8; **emph. added, CA**). Jehovah said there is **wine** in the **cluster**. Therefore, the Bible has referenced even the grapes still on the vine as wine. To call such “wine” intoxicating would be far from the truth!

Next, it is assumed that not only did Jesus make an intoxicating beverage, but that He did so to provide for men that were already drunk. Consider the words of the Bible: *“When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now”* (John 2:9, 10). Some believe that the “ruler of the feast” was saying that the men at this particular feast were already “well drunk” when Jesus provided this miraculously-changed beverage. That is not what is said. Read it again. The “ruler of the feast” was referencing a common custom where men would bring out worse wine after the good wine; however, on this occasion, the inferior beverage was first. Nowhere in the text does it say that the men at this particular feast were drunk, nor is it defined what is “good” and what is “worse”—such would require an even deeper study.

Finally, on this point, concerning Jesus turning water to “wine”, we must not stray from the truth concerning Jesus’ Deity and perfection. He is God; therefore, He *cannot lie* (Titus 1:2; c.f. Numbers 23:19; 2 Timothy 2:16; Hebrews 6:18). He cannot lie because such would be a contradiction to His very nature. And anything contrary to the commandments in His Word would be contrary to His very nature. Furthermore, if Jesus contradicted His commandments, He sinned, and if He sinned, Christians are of all people, the most miserable. Jesus NEVER sinned (Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5). With that said, what commandments can we find within the Word that cannot be contradicted by Jesus?

In the old law that He came to fulfill (Matt. 5:17), we find that the Bible says: *“Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder”* (Proverbs 23:29-32). Notice that this admonition...

...of wisdom commands that we not even “look upon” the wine because of its end (*last*).

In the New Testament, for which Jesus shed His blood (Matthew 26:28), we find that the Bible says, “*drunkenness, revelings, and such like*” will prevent us from going to Heaven (Galatians 5:19-21). Drunkenness is of course the excess of drinking alcohol, but revelings are the social gatherings where the process of drinking often takes place. Also, let us not overlook the “such like”. Jesus never sinned, Jesus never contradicted His holy Word, and Jesus did not turn water into an intoxicating beverage. (*To be continued*)

### **This Week’s Daily Bible Reading:**

Sunday:	1 Kings 8-9
Monday:	1 Kings 10-11
Tuesday:	1 Kings 12-14
Wednesday:	1 Kings 15-17
Thursday:	1 Kings 18-20
Friday:	1 Kings 21-22
Saturday:	2 Kings 1-3

## *Mark Your Calendars!*

Coldwater VBS

June 10 - 14

Sardis Lake Christian Camp

June 17 - 23

### *Sermon Review*

#### **I’m in the Eldership...Now What?**

(Acts 20; Hebrews 13; 1 Peter 5)

- I. Preside
- II. Protect
- III. Provide

#### **Resurrection** (1 Corinthians 15)

- I. The Gospel depends upon Resurrection (1-11)
- II. Preaching Christ depends upon Resurrection(12-16)
- III. Our Salvation depends upon Resurrection (17)
- IV. Our Hope depends upon Resurrection (18-19)
- V. Christ is the “firstfruits” of Resurrection (20)
- VI. Life after Death depends upon Resurrection (21-22)
- VII. The Final Coming depends...Resurrection (23)
- VIII. Uniting with Heavenly Father...Resurrection (24-28)

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Nora Boling** is recovering from a tear duct infection. **Herbert & Helen Bowman; Sue Cobern; Shirley Yarbrow; Wiley Tuggle & Betty Tuggle.**

**Far East Missions  
OpenDoor Ministry  
Fishers of Men**

## Family & Friends

**Mary Brett Baird.** **Gary Daugherty**, husband of Amanda Ferrell's assistant, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and has been given 6 months to 1 year to live. **Lavon Holden**, Jared's great-uncle, has pneumonia. **Sheena Hunt**, has a nerve system problem that is causing other health problems including with her heart. **James Angel**, Clifton's uncle, has cancer and not doing well. **Sherry Brown.** **Terry DeBerry**, **Nicole Blagburn**, co-worker of Molly, has breast cancer at the age of 30. **Chuck Tharp**, prostate cancer. **Eli Williams**, and his battle with cancer; **Missy Kelsay**, battling cancer. **Wes**, brother of Deb Peeler, has cancer. **Renee Loya**, (cousin of Elizabeth Baker), has MS. **Ray Maples** undergoing chemo-therapy for leukemia. **Janie Brister** has multiple health problems. **Aubree Harris; Virginia Mayfield; Peyton Harville; Charles Easley; Gloria Angel; Bob Spurlin; David Bragg.**

## April Birthdays

4/4 -- Nora Boling  
4/6 -- Ainsley Moore  
4/20 -- Aubrey Ratliff

## April Anniversary

4/4 -- Ashby & Tammy Johnson

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven (Matthew 5:16).*

## Get Involved!

### **Daily Bible Reading Calendar 2012**

Let's continue to read and study together!!

**E3 Fellowship Meal & Early Service -- April 15**

**Coldwater Workday -- April 21**

**Southaven Gospel Meeting -- April 22-26**

**Men & Children Campout -- April 27 - 28**

**Bible Bowl -- April 28 -- 5PM -- Acts 20-22**  
Looxahoma building -- **ALL** invited! Potluck meal!

**Southaven Ladies Day -- May 5**

See Announcement in Foyer.

## Privileged to Serve

### Sunday, April 15

#### Morning

Prayer Before Class	Wiley Tuggle
Announcements	Jason Bayless
Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Seth Daniel
	Billy Bland
Assist	Jim Jackson
	Payton Jackson
Opening Prayer	Seth Daniel
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Jeffrey Ferrell

#### Evening

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Opening Prayer	Caleb Baker
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jim Jackson
	Payton Jackson
Closing Prayer	Joe Owens

### Wednesday, April 18

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Prayer	Jerry Davis
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Ron Johnson