

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST~
NOVEMBER 1, 2020

SYMPATHY: Rickey Daniel (uncle of Shelly Cates and April Kinney) passed away this past week. The funeral was yesterday.

SICK/TEMPORARY: Suzanne and Katie Brown both tested positive for the Coronavirus mid-week; they are in quarantine; fortunately, their symptoms are light. Shelly Cates has an appointment with a pain doctor tomorrow.

PROTRACTED: Janice Bailey—Alzheimers; Scooter Birmingham (friend of Destiny Clayton); Brian Brown (Paul Brown's nephew)—epilepsy; Shelly Cates—fibromyalgia; Gladys Marie Elrod (Mary Ray's son-in-law's mother)—congestive heart failure; Addliae Farrow (Tabatha Clayton's great niece)—heart; Bubba Farrow (Emma Farrow's son)—Alzheimer's; Jimmy Ferguson (former preacher here)—heart rhythm; Jerry Floate (of this community)—liver transplant; Kaylie Hadley—UCTD; Paula Harrison—Meniere's Disease; Wanda Jackson—a-fib; Monica La Rock (granddaughter of Orelia Ferguson and mother of Noah)—recovering from a brain bleed and awaiting further surgery; Garrett Lentz (son of a co-worker of Cody Hadley)—seizures; Sheila Massey—Bell's palsy; Becky Munns (Tabatha Clayton's aunt)—heart problems, Crohn's Disease; Shelby Peyton—knee; Robert Rawson (preacher at Crockett)—diabetes; Ray Reynold's (Sheila Massey and Mary West's dad)—memory trouble; Brett Rutherford (Dan Cates' friend)—MS; Tammy Turner (a preacher's wife whom we support)—dementia; Francis Wallace (friend of Mary Ray).

CANCER: Clifton Angel (preacher at Coldwater)—thyroid; Sherry Brown (retired MSOP secretary); Alicia Busby (from the community); Earl Carlton (son of a friend of Syble Embrey)—esophageal; Gary Darnell (Ella Darnell's son)—leukemia as well as diabetes; Brenda Davis (a grandmother of Edra and Ryan Farrow); Tom Gordon (Cody Hadley's grandfather); Nathan Jones (the Hounshells' neighbors' 16 year old family member)—brain; Sara Kiestler (an FHU student)—Hodgkin's; Wade Loggins (member of congregation in Elkmont, AL); Dorothy Mosher (wife of an MSOP instructor); Carol Ogelsby (family of Sonny Stewart and the Browns)—stomach; Tommy Pierce (the Browns' friend); John Riley (member of the church who lives in this community)—lung; Tiffany Taylor (the Browns' friend); and Tabby Waters (Tabatha Clayton's sister-in-law)—leukemia.

SHUT-IN: Marie Crockett (home), Emma Farrow (in a care facility in Sardis), Orelia Ferguson (home), and Annette Cates (Dan Cates' mother who is at home in Pensacola, FL).

SERVING: Dylan and Maggie Cooper (Air Force, Offut AFB, Neb.), Cameron Hadley (Grayson Hadley's dad—Marines, Hawaii), Jacob Petrowski (grandson of former members here—Marines, soon to be let out). Also, please continue to pray for Kyle Embrey (Syble Embrey's grandson—policeman) and all other military [especially who are going or remain abroad] and for all those in authority that we might live "quiet and peaceable" lives (I Timothy 2:1,2).

Independence Church of Christ
8543 Highway 305
Coldwater, MS 38618

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The Informer



8543 Highway 305

Coldwater, MS 38618

662-560-8045

www.independencechurchofchrist.org

Services: Sunday 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 4:45 p.m. (pew-packers), 5 p.m.
Wednesday 7:15 p.m.

Ministers: Every Christian

Elders: Dan Cates (662-560-8045)

Carl Hounshell (812-653-2358)

Evangelists: Dan Cates (662-560-8045; dsmccates@yahoo.com)

Missions [the latest reports from these works are on the bulletin board in the foyer]

Independence Mission Fund (next: tbd)

Memphis School of Preaching (Jonathan Jenkins)

Brown Trail School of Preaching (Spanish Department)

Jim and Tammy Turner (Fairfield, North Carolina)

Trent Kennedy family (Four Seas Bible College, Singapore)

Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, India [Providing Bibles]

Netcasters and Fishers of Men (Tim Wilkes, II)

Tennessee Children's Home, West

Pablo Horna (Costa Rica) [Overseeing funds]

Many one-time, domestic and overseas, mission efforts

ALCOHOL AND THE BIBLE, Part 5

Nathan Franson

(Continued from last week) Some have gone so far as to make the case that the Bible does not explicitly call drinking alcohol a sin. Be careful, as it also does not call musical instruments in worship a sin, other mind altering drugs a sin, or even domestic abuse a sin. However, one can viably and accurately arrive at the conclusion they are all sins by reasoning through other parts of Scripture.

Do not assume the “best wine” meant fermented. Pliny wrote, “Good wine is that which is destitute of spirit.” Pliny, Plutarch, and Horace said the best wine was non-intoxicating. Habakkuk writes, “Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor, pressing him to your bottle, even to make him drunk, that you may look on his nakedness!” (Hab. 2:15).

WEIGH THE EVIDENCE

The Bible does not say anything about how good or moral or beneficial alcohol is. No one has ever gone to the Bible first and determined drinking alcoholic beverages is a good thing. They have already had it in mind to drink, then feebly attempt to find any justification (including Scripture) to support their decision.

Consider also there were many false allegations against the Savior by the Pharisees and scribes. Luke writes, “The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’” (Lk. 7:34). Matthew writes, “The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ But wisdom is justified by her children” (Mat. 11:19). Solomon writes, “Do not mix with winebibbers, or with gluttonous eaters of meat;” (Prov. 23:20). The term “winebibber” means “given to wine” (Thayer). It also simply means a “wine drinker” (Vine’s). Both of these definitions harmonize with what Paul wrote (Eph. 5:18).

Paul set forth a vital list of qualifications for men who are willing to serve as deacons. Each one determines whether or not he is eligible. One item has become a wide area of discussion. Paul writes, “Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money” (1 Tim. 3:8). It is interesting the same wording is not given to the office of an elder. Many attempt to say this permits a deacon to drink, so long as they are only moderate. However, there are a few variables at work. The term much is *polus* (πολύς) which means, “in any respect” (Strong’s). Couple this with Solomon. He writes, “Be not over much wicked” (Ecc. 7:17). Certainly some wickedness would not be ok, neither would wicked in moderation or social wickedness. It is the same wording, yet does not take much to realize the desperation it takes to force it to validate a personal habit.

One of the major arguments for alcohol is for medicinal purposes. While some still may choose to refrain, which is their choice, there is a broad line between medicinal and recreational. At one point, it is evident the preacher Timothy is suffering from what many believe to be ulcers. Paul explains, “No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach’s sake and your frequent infirmities” (1 Tim. 5:23). The context infers it is not for enjoyment, fun, or recreation. Still, some contend a glass of wine per day helps the heart. This has already been disregarded by many doctors. The Mayo Clinic states the alcohol content is inconclusive. There are many anti-oxidants found in other juices. The skin of grapes contains Resveratrol, which protects the body against damage that can cause cancer and heart disease.

CONCLUSION

It is ironic how drug counselors teach against the harmful effects of alcohol, yet so many Christians try to argue that the Bible says it is just fine. Paul writes, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...” (Col. 3:17). When examining whether or not anything is acceptable to Christ, His word must be the standard of authority prior to drawing any conclusions. Otherwise it is backward reasoning.

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:” (Ephesians 4:14,15)

BIBLE QUESTION:

This week’s question: Which congregation had some busybodies who were walking disorderly?

Last week’s question: What robber was released in Jesus’ place?

Last week’s answer: Barabbas (*John 18:39,40*)

SERMONS:

Reaching Those Astray (*Hebrews 10:32*)

“All the Counsel of God”: Backsliding (Fall Away)

DAILY BIBLE READING (November 2-8):

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Luke	18-21	22-24					
John			1-3	4-6	7-10	11-13	14-17

SCRIPTURE READING (NOVEMBER): Thomas Massey (2 Peter 2:20-22)

(DECEMBER): Cody Hadley

PRESIDE LORD’S SUPPER MORNING (NOVEMBER): Cody Hadley

(DECEMBER): Thomas Massey

ASSIST LORD’S SUPPER (NOVEMBER): Ray Stanford and Mark Peyton

(DECEMBER): Paul Brown and Sonny Stewart

CLEAN BUILDING (NOVEMBER): The Masseys

(DECEMBER): Ella Darnell and Carolyn Stanford

PREPARE COMMUNION (NOVEMBER): Kaylie Hadley

(DECEMBER): Suzanne and Katie Brown

PANTRY NEEDS: Imperishables.