



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 23:29-24:2

20 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife?
Who has complaining? Who has wounds without
cause? Who has redness of eyes?

30 Those who tarry long over wine; those who go to
try mixed wine.

31 Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles
in the cup and goes down smoothly.

32 In the end it bites like a serpent and stings like an
adder.

33 Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart
utter perverse things.

34 You will be like one who lies down in the midst of
the sea, like one who lies on the top of a mast.

35 "They struck me," you will say,^[b] "but I was not hurt;
they beat me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake?
I must have another drink."


24:1 Be not envious of evil men, nor desire to be with
them,

2 for their hearts devise violence, and their lips talk of
trouble.

DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 23:29-24:2

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These verses of Proverbs are a harsh warning of the dangers of drinking too much alcohol. This was once something I knew all too well growing up. For you see, both of my parents had a drinking problem. From the time I was old enough to go anywhere with my dad, we always would end up at a bar somewhere. My dad's drinking led to my family being evicted. I then went to live with my oldest sister and her family, who were what you would call hippies at that point. They would have people over on the weekends and drink a lot. At that time, to say I thought this was just normal would be an understatement.



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I also began drinking at a very young age. By the time I was in high school, I kept a bottle of whiskey in my locker at school. My last year of school, and the next two years, are really kind of a blur. I did not know the Lord nor was He even on my radar. But God was still merciful to me. One morning, I got up after a weekend of drinking with my head pounding, and I looked in the mirror and realized I had a problem. I told myself that I was going to end up just like my dad if something did not change. I slowly began to change my habits and my playground. It took another twelve years before I came to know the Lord. Though I did not know it at the time, I can see it plainly now. The Lord was leading me the whole time. I just had to refocus my eyes on Him. I cannot tell you how long it's been since I have had more than a sip of wine from someone else's glass. That is because God showed me that I should not be a stumbling block for anyone else.

As Christians, we are like a man in a glass house and everyone is watching us to see if we live out what we say we believe. When we decide to go out drinking, it is like handing out rocks to all that are watching. In the end our testimony is shattered and, in many cases, our life begins to unravel like my dad's did. I wish my dad would have made different choices, but God used those choices to make me who I am, for that I am thankful.

The last ten or so years of my dad's life he did not drink or smoke at all. But the damage done to his body after all those years finally caught up with him, and his lungs and organs gave out. Second Timothy 4:5 says, "As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." No matter if it is alcohol or anything else that alters our mind, we must first ask ourselves, "Will this honor the Lord?" If not, I pray, we can have the will power and conviction not to indulge in the passions of our flesh (1 Peter 2:11).

Questions:

1. Before you answer questions 2 & 3, please read 1 Peter 2. It is a great reminder of who we are in Christ and how we should try to live.
2. What choices have people in your life made that you can learn from? Sometimes a bad example helps us more than a good one.
3. As followers of Christ, we often want to say our sin is not that big of a deal until our life unravels. Is there a sin in your life that you cannot seem to get away from? Please share that with your Journey Group, other biblical community, or reach out to pastoraloffice@stonepointchurch.com.