

It's A Sobering Thought

Habakkuk 2:4-5

It all began quite *innocently*. They all had been friends since high school, pledged the same sorority, and now at graduation each knew her life would take her a different direction. Each knew this evening would be a very special time. This would most likely be the last time they would ever be together as each would pursue the next chapter of her life.

As they dined together at their special restaurant, there was that mix of laughter and tears in an atmosphere of spontaneity as each shared those special moments that had bonded them together over the years. As the evening concluded, each toasted the other with appreciation and a wish for the future, and they headed home.

Not one of these vivacious young women was known for excessive drinking, especially Jannie. She had always been so careful. Perhaps it was her empty stomach, or possibly the new medication for allergies, maybe she just didn't realize she had had "too much," but driving home she felt a bit dizzy. At one moment she slightly crossed the center line and hit a car head on. Her life would never be the same. Jannie was arrested for driving intoxicated.

For the rest of her life, Jannie will ask, "Why did I ever allow that to happen? Why did I take that second and third drink? or Why did I ever take the first one?"

It is so like each of us to form our opinions and even our judgments regarding Jannie's intoxication and the resulting consequences and never consider those *intoxicating* influences over our own lives that reek havoc and destruction in ourselves and those around us. Every one of us continually finds ourselves unconsciously under the influence of circumstances, trials, or certain people who cause us to *cross-the-line* into destructive behavior, injuring ourselves and others.

It all begins with that first drink of anger, offense, pride, defensiveness, or rejection that leads to another and then another with a spiraling effect of emotions and out-of-control behavior with devastating consequences. It can begin with that first drink of success that leads to the second drink of pride, arrogance, selfishness, greed, control, and self-idolization leaving us totally deceived only to discover we have isolated ourselves from every one and every thing we once held dear. We are left with the questions "Why didn't I stop at the *first drink*? What was I thinking? How could I have allowed myself to become *intoxicated* by my circumstances?"

In retrospect, **it's a sobering thought** to realize how such destruction can happen so innocently. More profoundly, it is even a greater life-changing and sobering thought to know what God has done to keep us sober when surrounded by the influence of the intoxication of our circumstances.

Life Response

1. This week MEMORIZE and MEDITATE on Ephesians 5:18 "*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.*"
 - (a) Meditate on this passage in the context of (1) verses 5:15-21 and (2) verse 5:1. Note the prerequisite of verses 15-17 and the product of verses 19-21. What conclusions can you make?
 - (b) What does Eph 5:18 tell us about the "predetermined choices" we must make before we face that *first drink* (circumstance).
 - (c) What does this passage tell us about the power to make the right choice? (See Acts 1:8; Gal. 5:16-26; Phil. 4:10-13, 19; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; 1 Pet. 5:6-11; Eph. 3:14-21.)
2. In our continued focus on Psalm 73 and its parallel to Habakkuk, note the progression of thought and the conclusion David made when confronting his circumstances. Specifically consider verses 15-28.

3. What are some of the *first drink* moments you face that, when taken, lead to another then another impairing your judgments and actions? i.e. Conflict with mate, temptations at work, hurts at school, things you watch, imaginations, health issues, etc. See James 2:12-16
4. Find a time this week when you can sit down with a close friend, your mate, or as a family and talk about some of those things that tend to “intoxicate” your emotions and feelings that if not addressed immediately will have destructive results.

“The more you exercise your will in saying a decisive no to temptation, the more God will take control of your life. ‘For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do His pleasure’.”

- Dr. Warren Wiersbe

Habakkuk: The nation of Israel has reached a low point in their history. They had become complacent and negligent in their relationship with God. Now they are experiencing the consequences.

Do we see ourselves as . . .
VICTIMS or VICTORS
How do we become one or the other?

What happens when our world begins to fall apart?

Habakkuk
3 Questions – 3 Chapters

Chapter 1 Does God know or even care about what is going on in my conflicted world?

Chapter 2 What is my basis for confidence/security/stability as I face my conflicted world?

vs 1-4	THE WILL	6 Acts of the will
vs 6-20	THE WARNING	5 Woes Consequences
	THE WONK	3 Things We Must KNOW
	— Created for God’s glory to reflect to glorify God	Isa. 43:7; Ez. 28:15 Gen. 1:26-28
	* Man’s predisposition proud / crooked total depravity	Rom. 1:18-32
	* Man’s predestination Holy and blameless	Eph. 1:3-4

Progression of Sin - Habakkuk 2:5

- * It’s Deception
 - “wine betrays the haughty man”
 - we become enticed by the lust/glitter
- * It’s Intoxication
 - “so that he does not stay at home”
 - we lose our reference point, stability
- * It’s Addiction

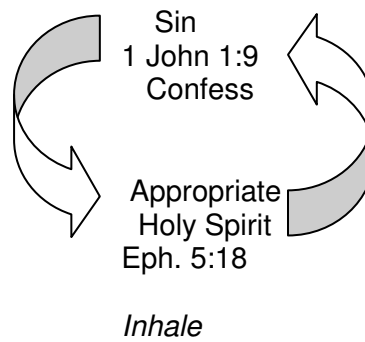
- “he enlarges his appetite like Sheol and is like death, never satisfied”
- It begins to control us
- * It’s Consequences
 - “he also gathers to himself all nations and collects to himself all people”
 - No one sins in isolation

Psalm 73:15-17
 NOW THAT’S A SOBERING THOUGHT!

Power from God - Ephesians 5:15-21
 Prerequisite vs 15-17
 A premeditated choice
 Imperative

Process vs 18
 Imperative

Spiritual Breathing
Exhale



Product vs 19-21
 Impact