

You Asked For It 4

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Hebrews 12:1 – Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us [thwarts the racer], and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

People often want to know, "How far can I go and still enjoy the benefits of God's blessings?"

In a surrendered life, we're not looking for loopholes in the Word, but rather falling more in love with our Savior and His plan for our lives.

The snare of weights and sins are that they never satisfy and lead to greater darkness.

This cycle can only be broken by the power of God and His Word in our lives.

I Corinthians 15:33 – Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

Jesus on the Gravity of Sin In Our Lives:

Matthew 18:8-9 – ⁸ "If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.

Movies, places, and porn that defile are sin.

Lay aside weights: alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs.

I Corinthians 10:23-24 – ²³ "Everything is permissible"-but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"-but not everything is constructive. ²⁴ Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.

What Does the Bible Say About Alcohol?

Proverbs 20:1 – Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.

Proverbs 23:29-35 – ²⁹ Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? ³⁰ Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine. ³¹ Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly! ³² In the end it bites like a

snake and poisons like a viper. ³³ Your eyes will see strange sights and your mind imagine confusing things. ³⁴ You will be like one sleeping on the high seas, lying on top of the rigging. ³⁵ "They hit me," you will say, "but I'm not hurt! They beat me, but I don't feel it! When will I wake up so I can find another drink?"

Alcohol enables people to say "They hit me, but I'm not hurt" or "They beat me and I don't feel it."

They are medicating their pain, instead of being made whole.

Because of alcohol do you know of:

- A marriage that failed?
- Adultery that was initiated?
- A premature death?
- An addicted person?

Seek the goodness of others, not your own.

I Corinthians 8:9,12-13 – ⁹ Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak or God does care when you use your freedom carelessly in a way that leads a Christian, still vulnerable to those old associations, to be thrown off track.

¹² When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

What Does the Bible Say About Alcohol and Leadership?

Proverbs 31:2-4 – ² What, my son? What, son of my womb? What [shall I advise you], son of my vows and dedication to God? ³ Give not your strength to [loose] women, nor your ways to those who and that which ruin and destroy kings. ⁴ It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings [leaders] to drink wine, or for rulers [leaders] to desire strong drink,

I Timothy 3:8 – ⁸ Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain.

I Corinthians 10:31-33 – ³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. ³² Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—³³ even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

We exist to see people come to Christ, and grow up and find their place in Him!