

ALCOHOL ABUSE

Painting the pump or repairing the well?



Imagine a village water pump in some remote part of the developing world that begins to pump out polluted water. Then imagine some smart Alec concluding that the solution was to paint the pump! Crazy? Yet exactly the same mistake is being made in the world today when it comes to solving the problem of moral pollution. Take alcohol abuse.....

Where should you go to find one of the best descriptions of a hangover? In the medical journals? No – to the Bible! There in the Old Testament, in the book of Proverbs written nearly 3,000 years ago, is a brilliant sketch of what a drunk experiences. And it seems that the author Solomon, knew what he was talking about. After all, in the next book of the Old Testament, written by the same author, he tells us that as part of his quest to discover a reason for living, he had tried alcohol as a pleasure-giver. Needless to say, it didn't work....

Alcohol abuse is nothing new – the first thing that Noah did after surviving the flood, was get drunk! And nothing much has changed since then – from the gin-shops of 18th century London (It's been claimed that 1 in 8 homes was some sort of "pub"), to the binge drinking of modern Britain – millions of men and women made to know God, are ending up in the misery of dependence on drink.

Which is why you'll find among our first batch of recordings on Tube7, four videos by ex-alcoholic Mike Mellor on how he was rescued from such misery. But as you watch these videos and read his life-story, look out for a critical element that sets Mike's experience apart from a mere "morality tale". It's this – that Mike didn't escape the clutches of alcohol dependency through a "programme", but through a "person". He wasn't argued out of alcoholism. He was set free. His feelings of guilt, the strains on his marriage, the money he was blowing, and even the danger he was becoming to himself and others, were not enough to change him. This is no story of someone "turning over a new leaf"...



No....here is a man who was revolutionised by the resurrected, living, conquering Jesus. The Bible says that the kingdom of God is not about words, but power. Words – kind words, critical words, well-meaning words, harsh words – cannot change the human heart. Christ alone can. It is Jesus coming to live in me who alone has the power to kick out the "strong men" of alcoholism...or any other addiction.

That's why you'll find in the New Testament that alcohol abuse and being full of God's Spirit are placed together as opposites – "Don't get drunk with wine....but be filled with the Spirit". Here is the real, lasting, total solution to alcohol abuse. Not merely a spell in a clinic but being filled with God's Spirit. That's why if you have an alcohol problem, or are trying to help someone who has, we recommend you take a look at Andy Banton's talks on "Salvation" at www.tube7.org/salvation.html. They're basic to solving the problem. You see, if the water's dirty, it's no good painting the pump – change the well!

Check out Mike Mellor's videos on Drink at www.tube7.org/drink.html.

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