

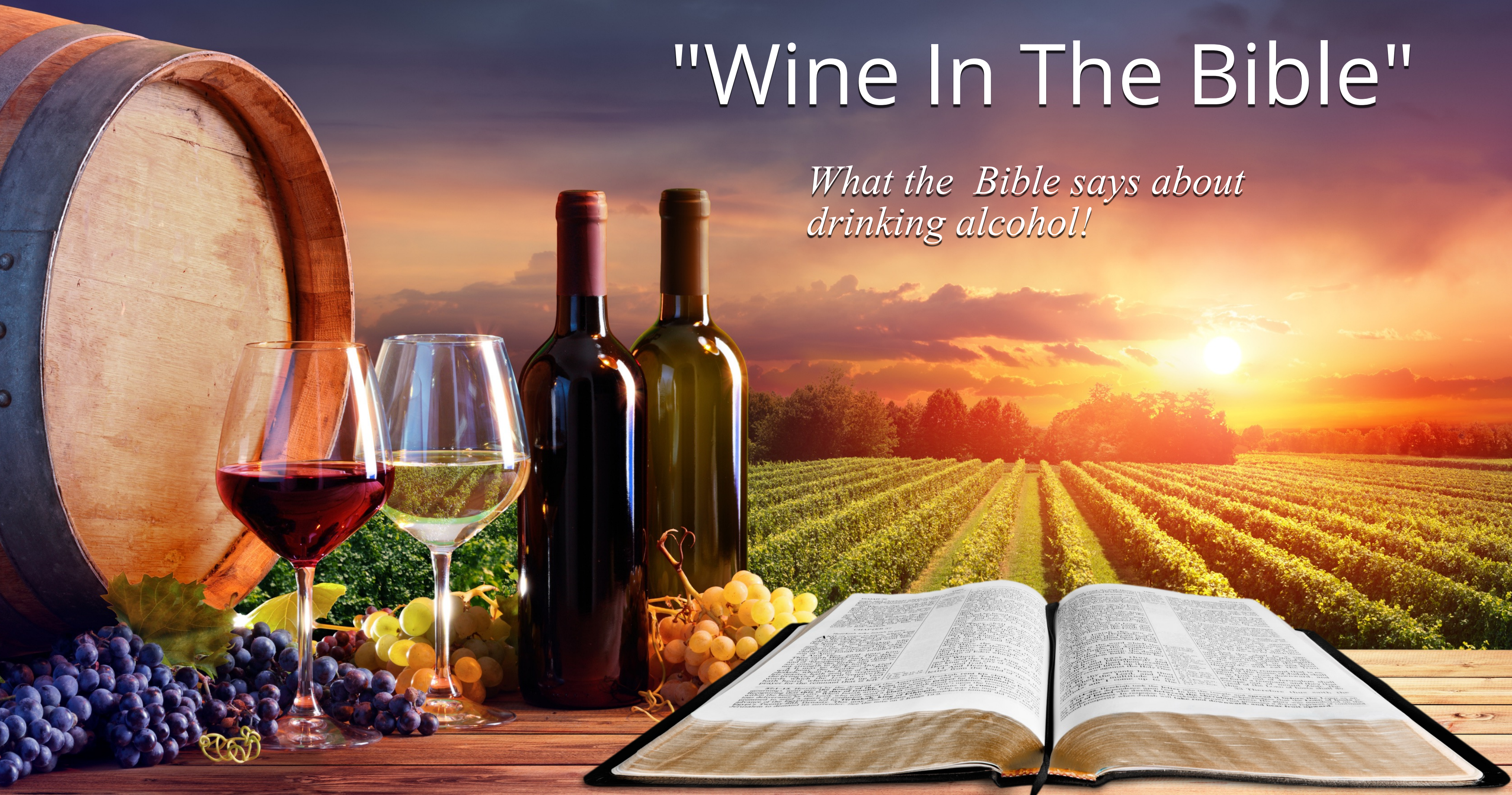


DEEPER

Critical Biblical Conversations

"Wine In The Bible"

*What the Bible says about
drinking alcohol!*





Introduction

Increasingly, Christians are asking, debating, and some are even torn as to whether or not it is Biblically permissible for us to drink alcohol, period or at least in moderation.



The discussion is taking place among pastors and laymen alike and has caused a great divide in the body of Christ.

In this conversation, we will take a look at the three primary camps of belief, how the word "wine" is used in the Bible, and seek to know clearly what the Bible says about drinking alcohol not only for the Christian but for everyone!



“To my surprise I found that some members and even some pastors think that certain Biblical passages allow for a moderate use of alcoholic beverages. Consequently, they feel that it is better to promote abstinence on the basis of social and medical considerations.”

Bacchiocchi, Samuele. Wine in the Bible: A Biblical Study on the Use of Alcoholic Beverages (Unabridged) . Biblical Perspectives. Kindle Edition.

Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual

10. Do you believe that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit; and will you honor God by caring for it, avoiding the use of that which is harmful, and abstaining from all unclean foods; from the use, manufacture, or sale of alcoholic beverages; from the use, manufacture, or sale of tobacco in any of its forms for human consumption; and from the misuse of or trafficking in narcotics or other drugs?

Seventh day Adventist Church. Church Manual: Revised 2015 .
Inter-American Division Publishing Association. Kindle Edition. p.
46

Focus Text

Proverbs 23:29–31 (NKJV)

²⁹Who has woe?

Who has sorrow?

Who has contentions?

Who has complaints?

Who has wounds without cause?

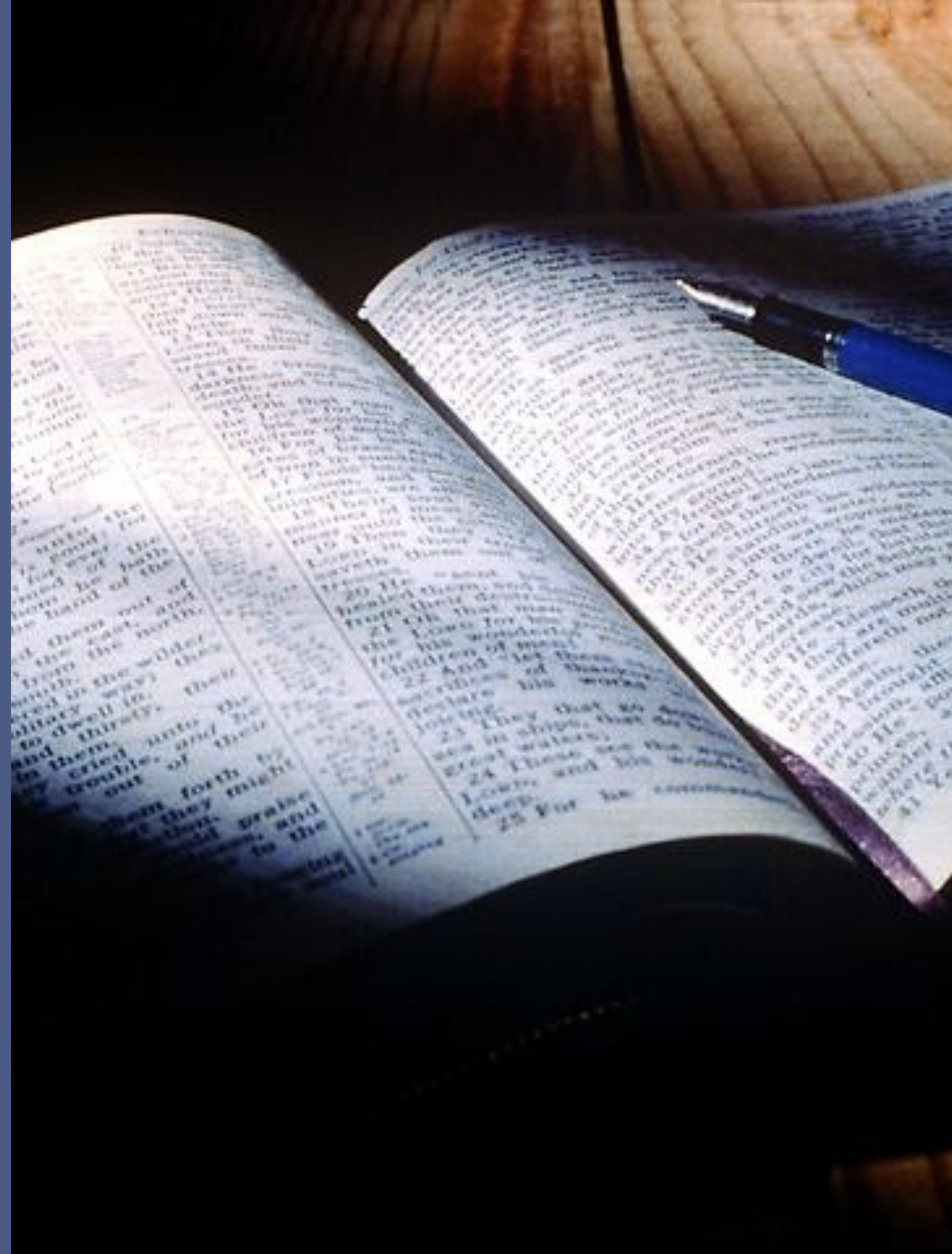
Who has redness of eyes?

³⁰ Those who linger long at the wine,

Those who go in search of mixed wine.

³¹ Do not look on the wine when it is red,

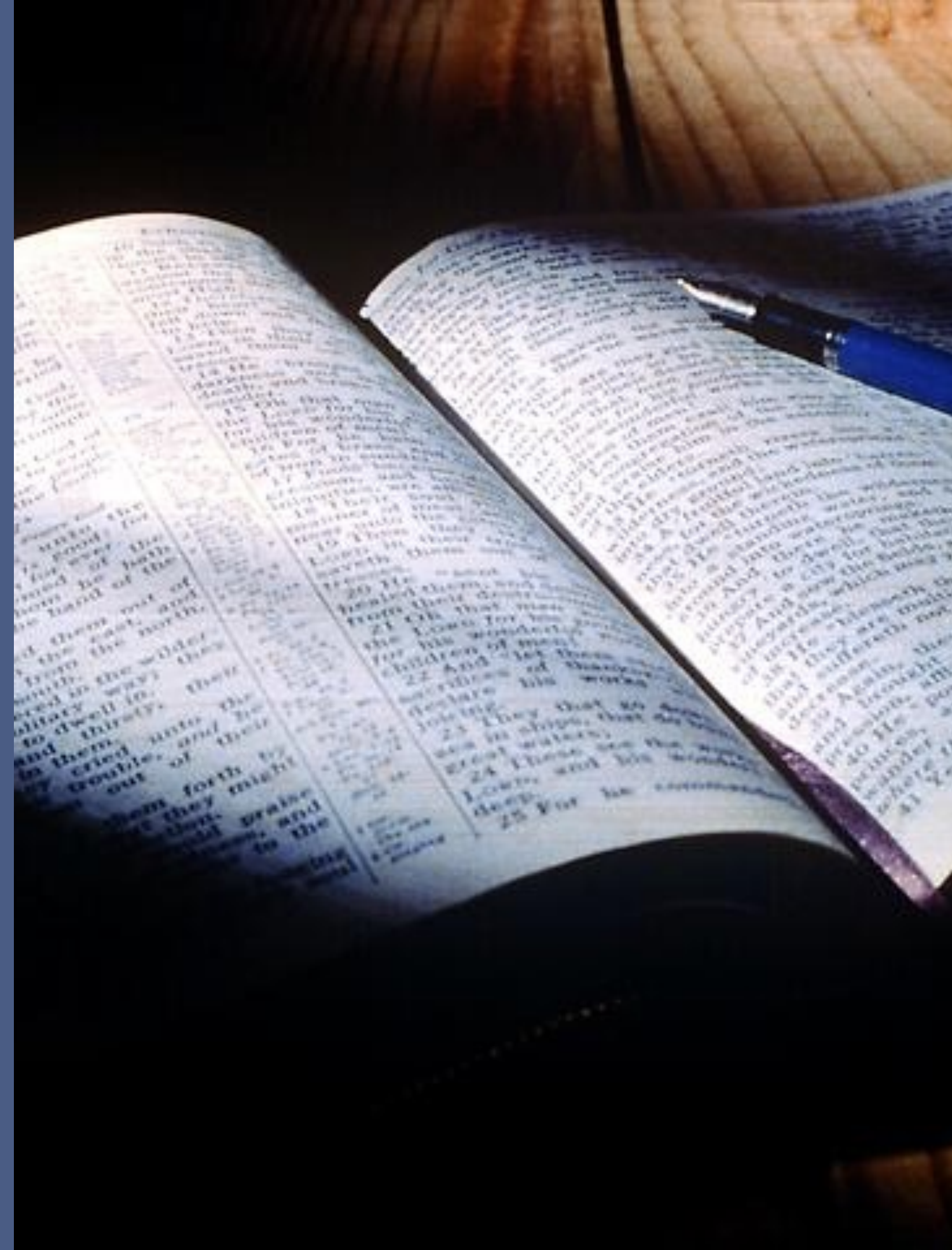
When it sparkles in the cup, When it
swirls around smoothly;



Focus Text

Proverbs 23:29–35 (NKJV)

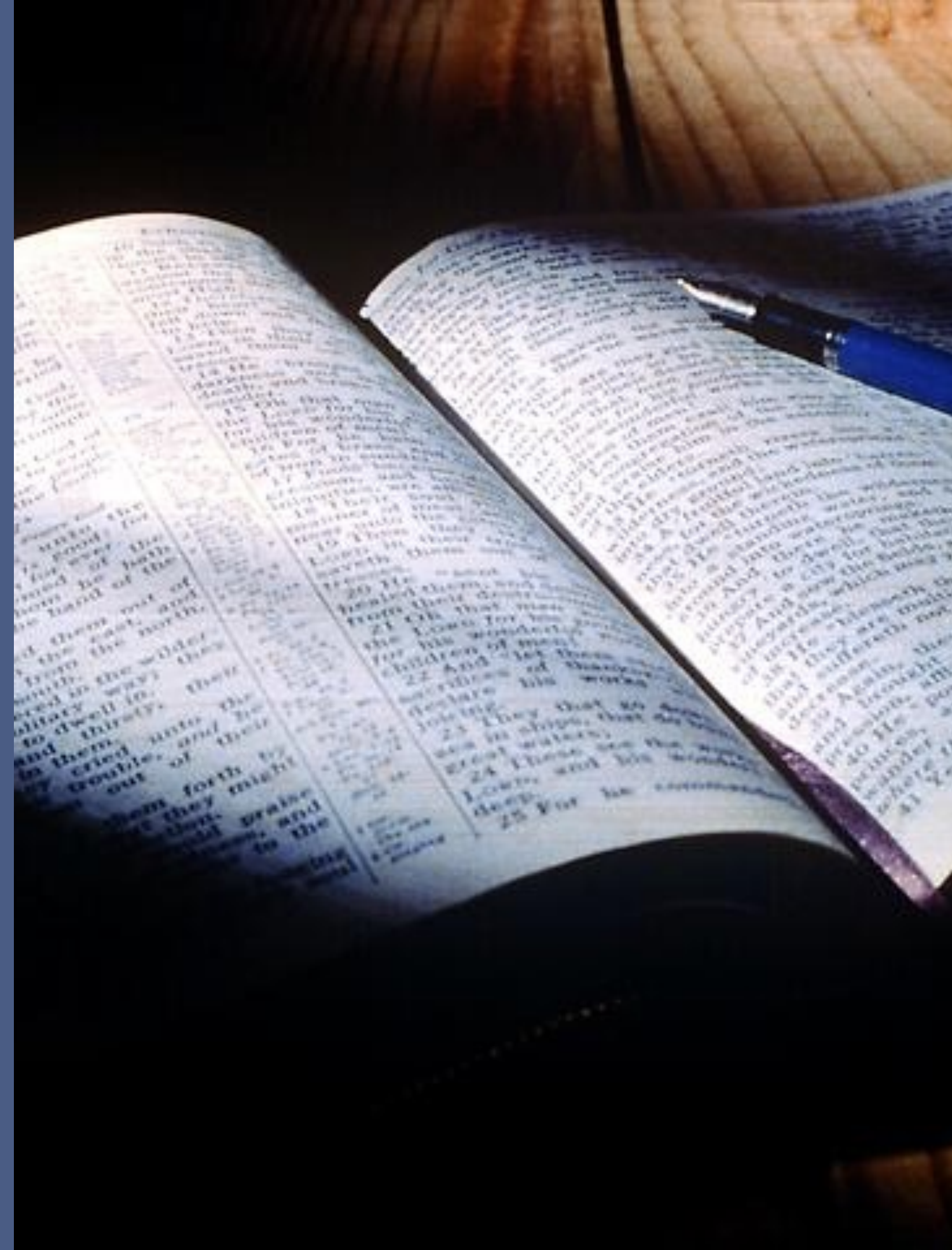
³²At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. ³³Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things. ³⁴Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: ³⁵“They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?”



Focus Text

Proverbs 31:4–5 (NKJV)

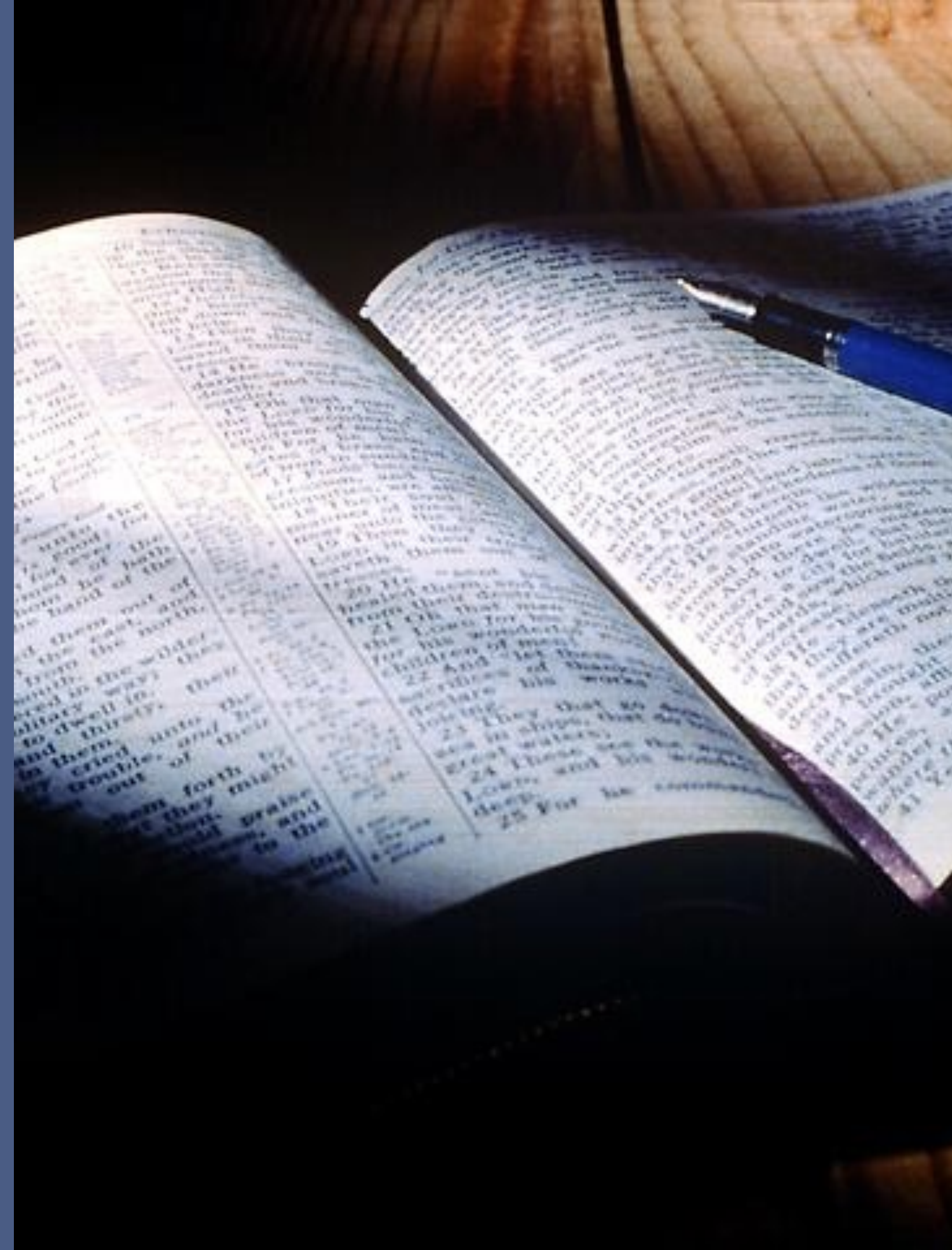
It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Nor for princes intoxicating drink; ⁵Lest they drink and forget the law, And pervert the justice of all the afflicted.



Focus Text

Luke 1:15 (NKJV)

For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.





Alcohol & Alcoholism

“A Social Crisis”



Terms Of Reference

Fermentation: The chemical breakdown of a substance by bacteria, yeasts, or other microorganisms, typically involving effervescence and the giving off of heat.

- The process of fermentation involved in the making of beer, wine, and liquor, in which sugars are converted to ethyl alcohol.



Terms Of Reference

Alcohol: Alcohol (ethanol or ethyl alcohol) is the ingredient found in beer, wine and spirits that causes drunkenness... Alcohol is formed when yeast ferments (breaks down without oxygen) the sugars in different food.

Alcohol is classed as a 'sedative hypnotic' drug which means it acts to depress the central nervous system at high doses. At lower doses, alcohol can act as a stimulant.

As well as its acute and potentially lethal sedative effect at high doses, alcohol has effects on every organ in the body.



Terms Of Reference

Alcoholism: AUD is a medical condition that is characterized by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5),² as “a problematic pattern of alcohol use leading to clinically significant impairment or distress.” AUD can be mild, moderate, or severe, depending on the number of symptoms a patient has experienced in the previous 12 months

niaa.nih.gov

Alcoholism is an identifiable - treatable - avoidable disease!



Terms Of Reference

Addiction: A person with an addiction uses a substance, or engages in a behavior, for which the rewarding effects provide a compelling incentive to repeat the activity, despite detrimental consequences. Addiction may involve the use of substances such as alcohol, inhalants, opioids, cocaine, and nicotine, or behaviors such as gambling.

Psychology Today



Terms Of Reference

Addiction: An addiction is a chronic dysfunction of the brain system that involves reward, motivation, and memory. It's about the way your body craves a substance or behavior, especially if it causes a compulsive or obsessive pursuit of “reward” and lack of concern over consequences.

Healthline.com



Terms Of Reference

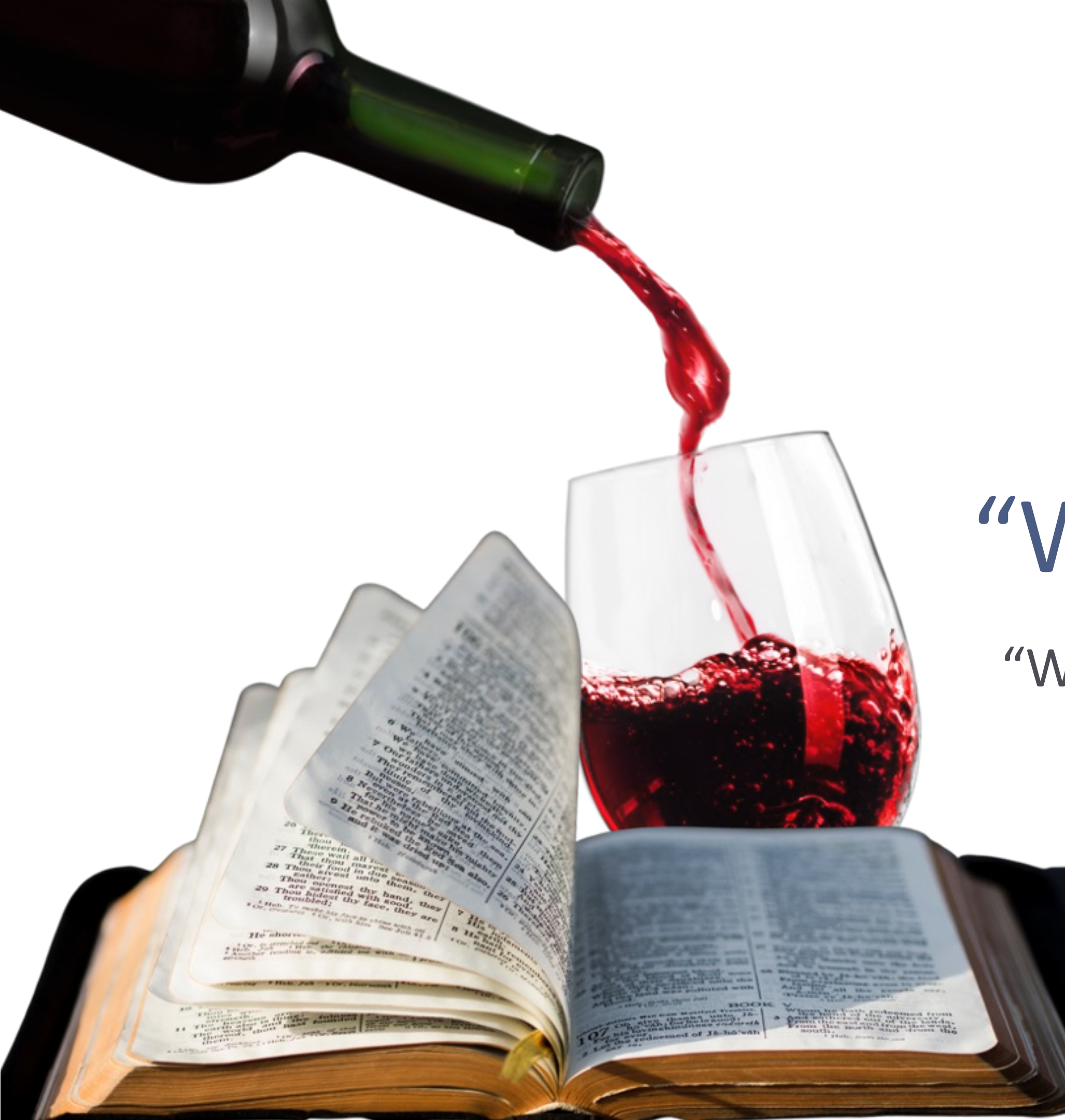
Addict:

Loss Of Control

Obsession

Compulsion

Dependence



“Wine” In The Bible

“What’s In A Word?”



Matthew 24:3 (NKJV)

3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”



Matthew 24:3 (NKJV)

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Three Viewpoints

“It’s All A Matter Of Perspective!
Or, Is it?”

Three Positions

- * Moderationist
- * Abstentionist
- * Prohibitionist



Moderationist

The moderationist position rests on the belief that Scripture condemns the immoderate use of alcohol but approves its moderate use. This belief is in turn based on the assumption that the Bible knows only of fermented wine (“one wine theory”) which it considers as a divine blessing to be enjoyed with moderation. According to this theory, any condemnation of wine in the Bible refers not to the kind of wine, but to the amount consumed.

Bacchiocchi, Samuele. Wine in the Bible: A Biblical Study on the Use of Alcoholic Beverages (Unabridged) . Biblical Perspectives. Kindle Edition.

Abstentionist

This view maintains that although God approved the moderate use of alcoholic beverages in Bible times, today it is preferable for Christians to abstain from them because of the many serious social and health problems related to alcohol consumption.

Bacchiocchi, Samuele. Wine in the Bible: A Biblical Study on the Use of Alcoholic Beverages (Unabridged) . Biblical Perspectives. Kindle Edition.

Seventh-day Adventist Prohibitionist

The Seventh-day Adventist Church upholds the abstentionist view, but on a somewhat different ground. It believes that God did not approve but merely permitted the use of alcoholic beverages.

Bacchiocchi, Samuele. Wine in the Bible: A Biblical Study on the Use of Alcoholic Beverages (Unabridged) . Biblical Perspectives. Kindle Edition.

Seventh-day Adventist Prohibitionist

In its comment on Deuteronomy 14:26, The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary Commentary explicitly affirms: “. . . Thus it was with ‘wine’ and ‘strong drink.’ Neither was strictly prohibited, except to those engaged in religious duties, and perhaps also in the administration of justice (Lev 10:9; Prov 31:4, 5) . . . In times past God often ‘winked’ at the gross ‘ignorance’ responsible for practices He could never approve.”

Bacchiocchi, Samuele. Wine in the Bible: A Biblical Study on the Use of Alcoholic Beverages (Unabridged) . Biblical Perspectives. Kindle Edition.

Prohibitionist

The prohibitionist view maintains that the apparent contradiction between the Biblical approval and disapproval of the use of wine can best be resolved by recognizing that the same Hebrew and Greek words for wine (yayin and oinos) can refer both to unfermented grape juice and to fermented wine. Consequently the “wine” God approves of is uniformly unfermented grape juice and the “wine” He disapproves is fermented and intoxicating...

Prohibitionist

...According to this view alcoholic beverages are prohibited in Scripture as unfit for human consumption. To partake of them is not only unhealthy but also immoral, because it represents the violation of a Biblical principle designed to ensure our health and holiness.

Bacchiocchi, Samuele. Wine in the Bible: A Biblical Study on the Use of Alcoholic Beverages (Unabridged) . Biblical Perspectives. Kindle Edition.



Critical Texts

“The Pros, Cons, & The Confusing.”



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CONCLUSION!

Review...

- Cephias - Peter
Out runs John to the tomb.
- "The Twelve"
Minus Judas - 11
- 500 Brethren
All at once!
- James & the Apostles
All at once!
- Paul
"I Saw Him!"



RESURRECTION IMPACT

“The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the crowning proof of Christianity. If the resurrection did not take place, then Christianity is a false religion. If it did take place, then Christ is God and the Christian faith is absolute truth.”

Henry Morris



NOT UNTIL...

“Never can the cost of our redemption be realized until the redeemed shall stand with the Redeemer before the throne of God. Then as the glories of the eternal home burst upon our enraptured senses we shall remember that Jesus left all this for us, that He not only became an exile from the heavenly courts, but for us took the risk of failure and eternal loss. Then we shall cast our crowns at His feet, and raise the song, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.” Revelation 5:12.





Thought Question

- What is your personal takeaway from this week's conversation?

Thank You!

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