

August 24th – The Consequences of Alcohol Use

“Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine.” (Proverbs 23:29-30)

When I was a child, I can remember a pack of cigarettes selling for about a dollar. I can even remember seeing cigarette vending machines in fast food restaurants. My how times have changed! These days, a pack of cigarettes goes for about \$5 a pack. Cartons of cigarettes are now more than \$50! A mission team from our church went to New York City in late 2015. Upon walking into a convenience store, a member of the team read a sign that said, “It is unlawful to sell cigarettes in New York City for less than \$10.15 a pack.” Talk about sticker shock!

Why are cigarettes so expensive? In many places, it’s because so many taxes have been attached to cigarettes. It seems the powers-that-be are attempting to eliminate cigarette smoking altogether. There would certainly be many positive results if cigarettes went away – fewer people would get cancer, money used for cigarettes could be used for other things, etc. I hope the time comes when no one will want to smoke anymore.

While our culture has cracked down on tobacco, it seems that alcohol has received a free pass. That’s very unfortunate, especially since alcohol kills just as many people as tobacco and heart disease. The words of Solomon here are very clear – if you want to waste your life, become an alcoholic. Many would agree that the Bible condemns alcoholism, but there’s nothing wrong with a few drinks. Not only can alcohol use be a bad witness for a Christian, but it is also poor stewardship. As with tobacco, the price of alcohol is also astronomically high. Wouldn’t we be better off sticking with water, coffee, tea, juice, etc. I don’t know about you, but “as for me and my house” we will abstain from alcohol.