

Hello. /We will begin our third lecture on Christian ethics. /Up to today, the church in Korea has been following the principle of abstaining from drinking alcohol.

/However, with the end coming near, people love pleasure more than they love God. /Nowadays, Christians are giving into the temptation of drinking as they continue their walk with God.

/At this point, under God's central message of "Do not get drunk," /we will begin our third lecture on Christian ethics. /Many people ask for the verse in the Bible that forbids drinking.

/In the Bible, there is no written message saying "You shall not get drunk." /However, the Bible contains lessons that support its idea of abstinence from drinking. /Proverbs 23:29 / points out the problems with drinking and tells us not to gaze at wine.

/Here, the Bible tells us to not stare at wine, which is a stronger statement than "Do not drink wine." /Staring at wine arouses the impulse to drink, so it is warning us to stop from staring at wine.

/Why does the Bible forbid drinking? /First, there is the element of debauchery. /Ephesians 5:18 says "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

/Romans 13:13 says "Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy."

/The main ingredient of wine is alcohol. /When people drink wine, they become drunk on alcohol. /Drunkenness on alcohol leads to paralyzed senses, which leads to blurred judgment. /Also, people are easily aroused and lose control.

/This is why people fall to temptation and walk a road of debauchery and pleasure. /Since the past, alcohol has been tied to women, drugs, and crime.

/In Genesis 9:20, /after the Flood, Noah plants grape vines. /He gets drunk off the wine from his grapes and sleeps naked. /Noah's second son, Ham, sees his father naked and tells people about it.

/As a result, Ham and his son Canaan are cursed. /This is the consequence of Noah's drunkenness and debauchery. /If Noah had not been drunk, this unfortunate event would not have happened.

/In Genesis 19:33, /Lot, after leaving Sodom and Gomorrah, becomes drunk and sleeps with his two daughters. /Through this, he bears Ammon and Moab, descendants of no faith.

/This shameful situation is the result of drunkenness. /In Daniel 5:2, King Belshazzar of Babylon drinks from the goblets brought by his father Nebuchadnezzar from the temple of Jerusalem.

/Then men and women alike engage in debauchery. /Consequently, King Belshazzar dies that night as a punishment from God. /When we see the news on television or newspapers, /we see company dinners that have shameful results because of drinking alcohol.

/At the dinner, a superior from the workplace might sexually harass a female worker, /or a university professor might sexually harass a female student. /These people are usually decent people.

/The reason they behave like this and commit embarrassing acts is they are excited because of the alcohol and cannot contain their feelings. /Noah was a man of good faith.

/Lot, according to 2 Peter 2:7, was a righteous man. /However, Noah and Lot could not defeat the emotions of drunkenness and make huge mistakes. /Many people make mistakes because of alcohol, only to regret it afterwards.

/Numbers 6:1 /tells of the laws of Nazirites. /A Nazirite is someone whose life is devoted to God from birth. /Nazirites must devote their lives for the glory of God and for his holy kingdom.

/There are three important laws for the Nazirites. /First, they must not use a razor on their head. /They must not cut their hair. /Furthermore, they must not let dead bodies make them ceremonially unclean.

/There are rules regarding the food they can eat. /They are forbidden from drinking wine or other fermented drinks. /They must not only abstain from wine, but must also eat anything that is used in making wine, including grape juice or grape skins.

/The rules are strict because Nazirites are distinguished people who are offered for the glory of God. /If they drink, they will have blurred judgment, lose self-control, and commit acts of debauchery.

/If drunk, their words or actions are subject to mistake. /Then, they cannot give glory to God. /They cannot show that they are distinguished men of God.

/Nazirites are not exclusive to the Old Testament. /In the New Testament, anyone who believes in Jesus and is saved is a Nazirite. /They are spiritual Nazirites. /1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says this:

/"You are not your own." Rather, you are a temple of God that was bought at a price. Therefore, you must honor God with your body.

/By this, the Bible says we are spiritual Nazirites. /We cannot live for ourselves. /We must live for Christ and die for Christ. /1 Corinthians 10:31 speaks about this.

/1 Corinthians 10:31 says, “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

/Also, in Leviticus 10:9, /God tells the Israelites entering the Tent of Meeting /to refrain from drinking wine. /The Tent of Meeting is a holy place. /It is a place to meet God.

/The Tent of Meeting is a place that requires zero falsity and fully committed service to God. /They must not drink fermented drinks or wine when they enter the Tent of Meeting. /If they do, they will receive the wrath of God in the form of death.

/In the past, Aaron’s two sons entered the place of God and offered unauthorized offering when a flame swallowed them up and killed them.

/When giving an offering to God, there is a distinguished and holy fire. /Only that fire may be used, and by offering an unauthorized fire, there may be terrible results.

/Today, we are believers who have received God’s calling, living a life of worship. /We who worship God must keep our lives clean and holy.

/Our bodies are offerings to God, but if we do not live pure lives, we cannot offer ourselves to God. /There are two representative people who had given offerings to God. They are Adam’s two sons, Cain and Abel.

/God accepted Abel’s offerings, but He did not accept Cain’s. /Our offerings are important, but equally important are our bodies. /When we worship and praise God, we must be pure and holy.

/In order to do this, we must abstain from drinking alcohol and live godly lives. /There is a second reason for us to abstain from drinking. /The reason is we will lose justice and righteousness. /In Proverbs 31:4, /King Lemuel’s mother teaches the King a lesson.

/Proverbs 31:4 /tells of King Lemuel’s mother’s earnest request of her son to abstain from drinking. /There is an important reason for this. /If a king drinks, he loses his judgment and will forget the law.

/Thus the king will lose his righteousness and justice. /He will be unable to make proper decisions nor lead his people. /We are aware of King Solomon’s history. /When Solomon was awake before God and prayed, he did a great job leading his people.

/However, when he enjoyed alcohol and committed acts of debauchery, he was incapable of leading his people. /Not only could he not lead his people, but he also could not take care of himself.

/Solomon was overtaken by the lures of women. /He left God to serve idols. /A king who once had a passion for God ended up serving multiple gods.

/Solomon lost his justice and righteousness and the law of the Lord. /In today's press, we see shameful news of political and economic leaders being taken into prison.

/One of the reasons for this phenomenon is these leaders lose judgment in their drunkenness, engaging in acts of corruption. /Isaiah 5:22 says /"Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine."

/There are many reasons, /but according to the Bible, people influenced by bribery called evil ones righteous, /while taking righteousness away from righteous people. /The prophet Isaiah tells of such events during his time.

/They would count righteousness as evil, and evil as righteousness. /They called the darkness "light" and light "darkness." They called righteous people "evil people" and evil people "righteous people."

/This happened because they were drunk and addicted to alcohol. /Today, many drinking events are corrupt and bribery occurs. Hence people lose their sense of justice.

/Revelation warns of corrupt kings and leaders during the end of days. /Leaders of nations today are committing acts of corruption, immorality, and debauchery.

/Long ago, a president of the United States did this. /Another U.S. president engaged in such activity. /Nowadays, the Prime Minister of Italy does this. /The Prime Minister of France also participated in these activities.

/Nowadays, people are drinking and committing acts of debauchery, marrying new wives. /This destroys the order of society. /Isaiah 28:7 /warns of the wrath that is coming on priests and prophets.

/Why would the holy priests and prophets of God receive wrath and not blessing? /The reason is they stagger in drunkenness and stumble when making decisions.

/How can believers abstain from drinking when the leaders of the church are drinking? /I sometimes go abroad for missions. /A Chinese church's leaders were enjoying alcohol.

/The problem is when they drink and engage in debauchery, they make mistakes. /There was a person who because of his debauchery divorced his wife. /God's glory is hidden, and the believers from the church are wounded.

/Here, the priests and prophets stumble when they render decisions. Church leaders of today must teach the word of God, setting an example for the congregation. But anyone who enjoys drinking has clouded judgment.

/Pastors are Nazirites. /They should never drink alcohol. /Third, we should not drink because drinking can be the cause of crime.

/Drinking paralyzes the mind and the body. /The heart is aroused, /judgment is lost, and functionality decreases. /That is when people behave wrongly.

/Sometimes when we drive, we see checkpoints checking for drunk driving. /The probability of causing an accident is many times higher when you drink and drive. /The impact of drunk driving is alarming.

/Driving drunk can hurt the driver, but it can also be a fatal danger to someone else. /A drunk driver who causes an accident may suffer injuries, but someone else can die as a result.

/The death of the other driver brings great sadness to the family. /Even if drunk driving does not cause an accident, it is identical to attempted murder.

/You can never know the accidents drunk driving will bring. /Therefore, developed countries heavily punish drunk driving. /Driving under the influence also causes other social crimes.

/Not too long ago, according to statistics released by the police department, 90% of all misdemeanors are caused by excessive drinking. /90% of small crimes are caused by alcohol.

/Also, 60% of all criminal cases are caused by excessive drinking. /Criminal cases refer to incidents that put people in prison, and 60% of the cases are caused by alcohol.

/Records from 30 police departments in Seoul indicate that 80% of all assault cases are caused by drinking. /Alcohol excites people, who are then unable to control their impulses.

/This is why people who are drunk swing their fists and weapons. /In their anger, people die.

/Drinking is causing a serious societal problem. /We Christians must shine a light on those who do not believe in God. /We must not allow alcohol cover the glory of God.

/The fourth reason we need to abstain from drinking is drinking hurts our health. /Over the past ten years, deaths due to alcohol poisoning in Korea has increased six fold. /Other statistics show the death rate in Korea due to liver cancer, which is correlated with drinking alcohol, is the highest in the world.

/The main particles of alcohol pass through the liver and intestines. /Because of this, the liver and intestines are most damaged when drinking alcohol. /Consuming too much alcohol weakens the liver's functionality.

/The symptoms may get worse and develop into cirrhosis of the liver or even liver cancer. /Eventually, this will lead to death. /Furthermore, alcohol hurts the stomach and intestinal walls to have a large negative impact on the digestive tract.

/Alcohol also weakens the heart. /It may bring upon high blood pressure and cardiac arrest. /Alcohol weakens the immune system and delays the treatment of disease, causing the disease to worsen.

/Alcohol lowers men's sexual reproductive functions and causes irregularities in women's menstrual cycles. /Alcohol also causes people to age more quickly.

/People who drink feel more fatigue. /Countless diseases are caused by alcohol, all of which injure the body. /Believers must not drink for another reason. Drinking draws us away from a place of blessing.

/People who keep far away from drinking and live in piety received God's grace and blessings. /People who are friends with alcohol and debauchery are prone to God's punishment. /Daniel is a key example.

/When Daniel was taken captive to Babylon, he was selected by King Nebuchadnezzar. King Nebuchadnezzar educated the young, noble boys of Judah. He selected them to lead nations in the future.

/Anyone chosen by the king was guaranteed success. /The doors to success were opened before them. /When they were void of hope as captives, they had encountered a great blessing.

/Since the boys were selected by the king, they were given good food. /However, in Daniel 1:8, Daniel makes a decision. /He decides to not eat the dishes or drink the wine given to him, for they will make him unclean.

/Daniel must have been beautiful in God's eyes. /He was blessed by God to become prime minister of Babylon. /In Jeremiah 35, there appears the Recabite family. /They were not originally a tribe of Israel.

/Moses' father-in-law was a Qenite. /Through Moses, he believed in God and became a tribe that served God.

/The forefather of the Recabites, Jonadab, commanded his people to not drink wine. The Recabites lived properly—they did not drink for 250 years. /God complimented the Recabites for their pious hearts.

/Our priority as Christians should be to glorify God. /Whenever we eat or drink, it should be for God's glory.

/Some people say it is okay to drink as long as we do not get drunk. /However, a godly Christian cannot drink at all.

/First, it does not make God happy. /Second, it clouds the glory of God. Third, it prevents us from being blessed.

/I hope that all of you can abstain from drinking and experience the blessing of God.
/Thank you.