



THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

Brooksville church of Christ
604 W. Fort Dade Avenue, Brooksville, FL

May 29, 2022

The Beer Can (Kent Heaton)

It was lying on the side of the road on the corner to my house. A single beer can discarded like a piece of trash by a person who had used its contents to fill a pleasure and then thrown out the window. I have seen hundreds of discarded cans, and this one was no different except for what it represented at that moment.

The appeal of its contents had caused a person to purchase it and then consume the momentary feeling of pleasure. When the can was emptied, it had no use and was carelessly thrown out for someone else to pick up. It was empty. It had no use. It had lost its appeal. It was but for a moment. It was worthless.

Man has always sought momentary pleasures to fill his void. Looking for the appeal of alcohol, man seeks out these cans of poison and drinks his fill and, while finding a sense of satisfaction for the moment, realizes that it is

only for a moment. His life is like the can he threw away – empty, rejected, of little use, shallow and unfulfilled.

Lives have been destroyed because of intoxicating drink. Families are torn apart daily by its presence in the home. Young people live with the consequences of their actions through the use of alcohol for the rest of their lives. As Herman Melville wrote in “Moby Dick,” it is truly a “demon.”



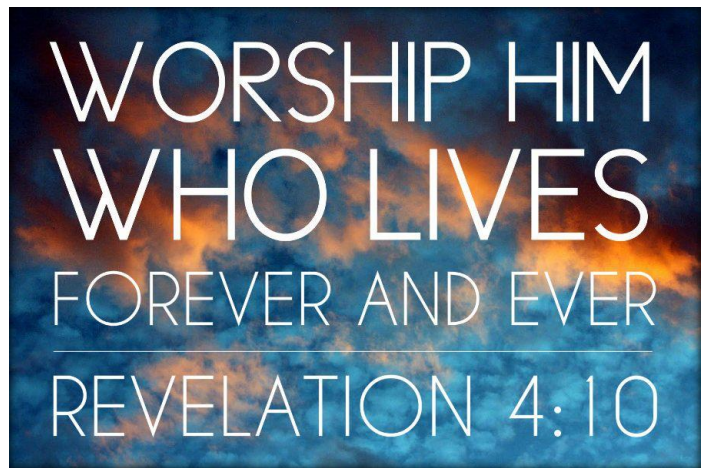
The wise man wrote in Proverbs 23:29-35, “Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent and stings like a viper. Your eyes see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things. Yes, 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, ‘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?’”

The Lord has shown people of God that alcohol has no value in their lives and no purpose. The great tragedy of its use is the end result – like a discarded can on the side of the road.

The appeal of momentary pleasure has driven many to the basement of alcohol’s deceit. There is no value in following a life of drunkenness or even flirting with the dangers of drinking as many do in what they refer to as “social drinking.” That makes as much sense as “social fornication.”

The appeal of the Lord is for His people to be “Obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Peter 1:14-16). Peter quotes from Leviticus 11:44 where the appeal of



God to the people is for them to “sanctify” themselves before Him. One cannot sanctify themselves with a beer in hand.

Someone will pick up the beer can and throw it away. It will be left to families to pick up the pieces of shattered lives. Many who have found themselves in the slavery of alcohol will find their lives thrown on the side of the road as nothing more than an empty life.

Christ has the answer, and it is found in His love, mercy, forgiveness, and strength to overcome. He is the way out of sin, and He is the only truth one can find about sin, and He is the only one who can give life to empty lives (John 14:6). His path leads to the Father and salvation. Don’t throw your life away. Be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED ?		
Both Jesus and the apostles (guided by the Holy Spirit) taught that to be saved, it is necessary that one:		
Hear	Romans 10:13-17	John 6:45 Revelation 1:3
Believe	John 2:30-31	Hebrews 11:6 Acts 16:31
Repent	Luke 13:3-5	Acts 2:38 Acts 17:30-31
Confess	Matthew 10:32-33 Romans 10:9-10	
Be Baptized	Mark 16:15-16	1 Peter 3:21 Acts 22:16
Live Godly	Titus 2:11-14	Romans 12:1-2 2 Peter 1:5-11

The blacksmith did ignorantly conduct this burglar into his family’s heart. It was the Bottle Conjuror. Upon the opening of that fatal cork, forth flew the fiend and shriveled up his home.
(Herman Melville, Moby Dick, 1851)

The Bible Idea Of A Christian

In relation – he is a son.
 In heart - he is obedient.
 In faith - he is a believer.
 In conflict – he is a soldier.
 In character – he is a saint.
 In the world – He is a pilgrim.
 In expectations – he is an heir.
 In the darkness – he is the light.
 In earth’s pollution – he is the salt.

Trials and Character (Jeff Himmel)

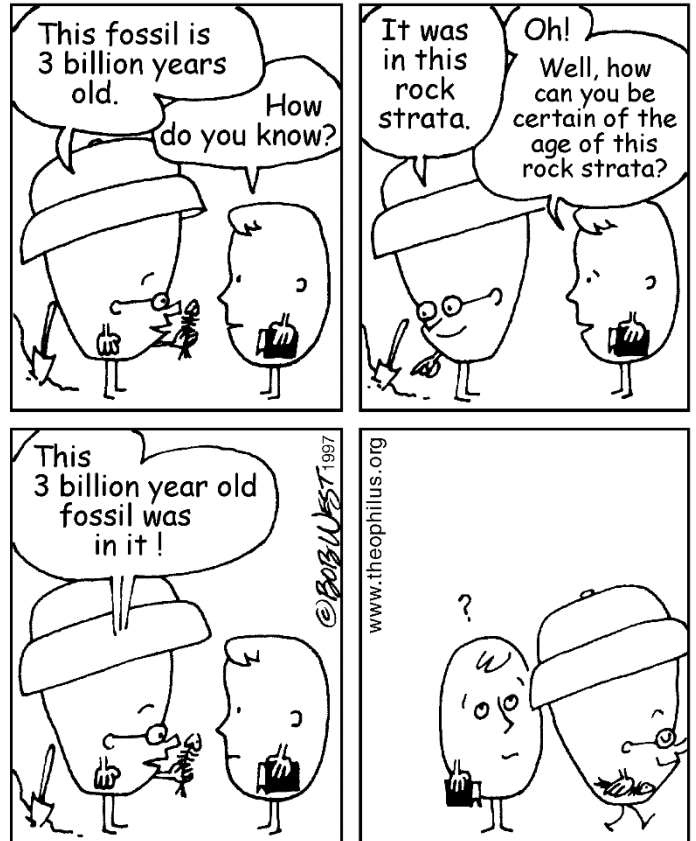
“We also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character.” (Romans 5:3-4).

For disciples of Christ, it’s heartening to know that persevering in tribulation yields proven character — “a quality of life and character that has been tempered and purified and demonstrated to be pleasing to God” (Jack Cottrell). Marvin Vincent called it “tried integrity.”

As James wrote, “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” (1:2-4).

THEOPHILUS

Dating Technique



However, “A man must be careful. His trials and tribulations may be the result of his own foolishness; if this is the case, his tribulations may not result in proven character at all!” (Gareth Reese).

Many hardships have multiple, complex causes that are largely beyond our control; but some troubles we may bring directly on ourselves through foolishness and sin. True, we can learn and grow even from these. But not everyone does.

Many choose instead to blame it all on someone or something else. They keep on making the same bad choices, reaping the same bad consequences, and offering the same bad excuses. They manage to grow in nothing but their bitterness and their capacity for blame-shifting. Worse, some act as if there is something inherently noble about all their self-inflicted

suffering, even as they refuse to acknowledge, much less change, the thinking and behavior that keep the whole sad cycle stuck on repeat.

Not all suffering is necessarily sanctified. George Mark Elliott warned, “Sometimes when a man thinks he is wearing a martyr’s crown, he really is wearing a fool’s cap!”

And God warns, “Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name” (1 Peter 4:15-16; cf. 2:20).

In their book ‘Lessons From History,’ Will and Ariel Durant observed, “There is no significant example in history, before our time, of a society successfully maintaining moral life without the aid of religion.”



Renewing A Worshipful Spirit

- Spend the week meditating on a passage that will help you prepare for the Lord’s Supper. Use this passage to dwell on when the emblems are passed.
- Fill the week with hymns of praise to focus your mind on the Lord’s Day. Sing hymns from the songbook, listen to songs of faith, pick out a specific hymn and dwell on its message.
- Do not schedule anything that will interrupt your time with God’s people. Plan to spend the time in worship with the family of God on Sunday – His day! Look forward to worship with joy.

Brooksville Church of Christ

604 W. Fort Dade Avenue – P. O. Box 751 – Brooksville, Florida 34605
352-796-9803 / Brooksvillechurch@gmail.com / www.Brookvillecoc.com

Times of Services

Sunday Bible Class for all ages (10:00am)

Sunday Worship all Welcome (11:00am & 6:00pm)

Wednesday Bible Class for all ages (7:00pm)

Supporting the GOSPEL in other places:

☞ Jamey Hinds, Hollywood, Florida; Roy Fenner, Panama City, Florida

☞ Zeke Flores, Columbus, Texas; Philip North, Branson, Missouri

☞ The saints in Nicaragua

Contact Kent Heaton (352-283-3889) heatonkent@bellsouth.net

