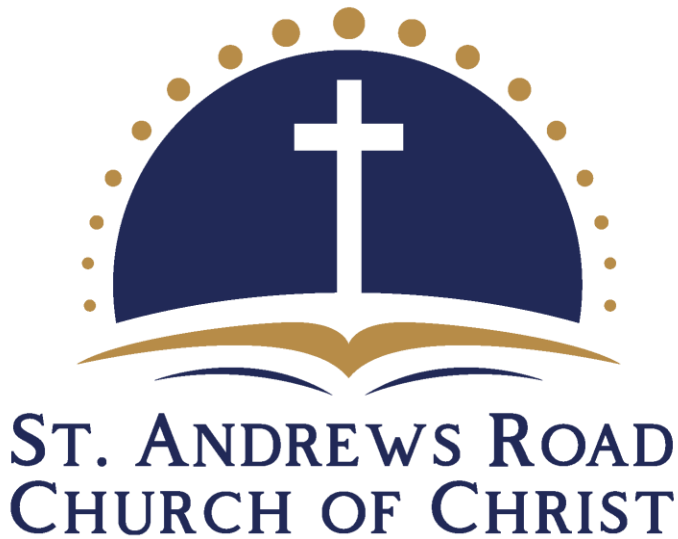


April 30, 2023

Volume 57 Issue 18



Worship Services & Bible Study

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM	Bible Class
SUNDAYS	11:00 AM	Worship
SUNDAYS	6:00 PM	Worship
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM	Bible Study

425 Saint Andrews Rd / Columbia, SC, 29210
803-772-0102

YouTube: Church of Christ St Andrews Rd

Booze It And Lose It

According to Madd.org, two out of three people will be impacted by drunk driving in their lifetime. According to the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare, "When calculating the national average, 38.9% of children removed from their homes and placed in out-of-home care had parental alcohol or other drug (AOD) abuse as an identified condition for removal." These statistics sadly describe the state of our country that is "under the influence" of the powerful drug alcohol. It is an understatement to say that we have an alcohol problem in this country. I believe this problem will continue as long as it is embraced by the sports world, and by parents and role models who believe there is nothing wrong with "social drinking."

The wise man wrote, **Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise (Proverbs 20:1 NKJV)**. A wise woman once said to her son, **It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes intoxicating drink; lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the justice of all the afflicted (Proverbs 31:4-5)**. Indeed, it is not wise for Christians to drink intoxicating beverages. What good comes from drinking an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)? Most employers are smart enough to know the answer to that question. They prohibit the drinking of alcoholic beverages while on the job because they know a person's judgment is the first thing to become impaired. But why can't folks also see that when they are off work, among their loved ones? I've known several people who started smoking because they saw their parents smoking. It is the same with alcohol. A man may say within himself that his one beer a day is not hurting him or anyone else. But little eyes see, and may later seek to imitate their heroes, and smart for it. The Bible says **the glory of children is their father (Proverbs 17:6b)**. Children look up to their fathers and want to be like them.

I love sports, but I hate that the college and pro teams have married themselves, so to speak, to alcohol. You can't watch the "souples bowl" and not be barraged with such ads. I was and am extremely disappointed in the college athletic directors who boasted of bringing beer and wine to their athletic events a few years ago. I can't imagine how much that has contributed to folks being killed on the highways. It won't be popular, but the Christian must fight and expose the evils of America's number one drug. **The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil (John 7:7)**. It is a challenge to be a saint, but God makes you and me a saint in His Son, and He expects us to live like a saint. **To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours (1 Corinthians 1:2)**. Sanctified means to be set apart. Sanctified people are holy people. **But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct (1 Peter 1:15)**. A Christian ought to shudder at the thought of ever "touching the stuff", with the exception being for medicinal purposes (1 Timothy 5:23).

As long as people continue to drink alcohol for pleasure, the misery of addiction, lost lives, and broken homes will continue. But what is much worse is one living in misery in a devil's hell. Drunkenness is condemned in God's word (Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Romans 13:13; Luke 21:34; Proverbs 23:20-21). "Booze it and Lose It" is a slogan that means you could lose your driver's license, vehicle, and freedom if you drive impaired. But in the next life, one stands to lose something so much more valuable: his soul. Let us therefore be wise and understand the will of the Lord, that we not become intoxicated with alcohol, but be filled with the teachings of the Holy Spirit (cf. Ephesians 5:17-18). Then, we can teach others about our holy and gracious God who saved us by His Son (vv. 19-20).

Brotherly,
Jamie

THE PURPOSE OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE

1Cor. 5:1-8; 2 Thess. 3:6-15

A Jot from John,

Through the years some individuals have sought to use church discipline as a means of taking vengeance or as an outlet for personal animosities. While recognizing this as an abuse of discipline and an idea arrived at on the basis of an inadequate understanding of the purpose of church discipline, there are many others who because of a similar lack of biblical information view church discipline as something to be avoided at all costs. However, the Bible clearly sets forth the fact that the fundamental design of church discipline is salvation – the reclaiming of lost souls, not the repudiation of them; the winning again of those who have strayed, not withdrawing from them. Basically, it is an effort to bring lost sheep back home rather than to exclude them from the family circle. Specifically, the purpose of church discipline is threefold:

To save an erring brother or sister. The primary purpose is to bring a person to his senses and encourage repentance and restoration that he might be forgiven. This must be the thought uppermost in the mind of a congregation contemplating corrective discipline.

To save the church. To allow an unhealthy or infectious condition to exist in the body may lead to the ultimate deterioration and death of the body. When all the Spiritual medicine and know-how has been applied to a diseased member of Christ's body, other members have lent their love and encouragement to try to bring about recovery, and after sufficient observation it can be ascertained that all of this was in vain; then in order to save the body, the only alternative is to amputate!

To save the world. People cannot walk in darkness and hope to point those with whom they come in contact to the light. Jesus loved the church enough to die for it and when a congregation tolerates deliberate and habitual sinners who will not repent of their wrongs, the world comes to attach very little value to the church.

Men and women are looking to the church, to the elders, to our preachers, to you and me, to take the lead in the search for truth and righteousness and to provide the guidance and direction, the instruction and discipline so necessary to enable them to know with a surety that God is, that the Bible is His Book for man, and that Christ died in order that man might live abundantly (John 10:10). Let's give them what they're looking for!

**Onward Rejoicing,
John B. Daniels, Associate Minister**



Mother's Day Breakfast

Saturday, May 6

9:00 AM



Please sign-up on the bulletin board.

Senior Bible Study

Tuesday, May 9

10:00 AM

Men's & Preachers Meeting

Tuesday, May 16

10:00 AM

"How a godly man develops a strong work ethic."

Palmetto Bible Camp

Second week

June 18 – 24

Registration is open now and available online at www.PBC.CAMP

