

Proverbs 23:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

Analysis

The answer to verse 29's questions: 'They that tarry long at the wine' and 'seek mixed wine' (strong drink) experience all that misery. 'Tarrying long' indicates not casual consumption but excessive indulgence. 'Seeking mixed wine' suggests pursuit of stronger intoxication. These people organize life around drinking, making it a priority and pursuit. The result is the catalogue of woes described in verse 29. This warns against not merely drunkenness but the lifestyle that leads to it—making alcohol a focus rather than occasional refreshment. Believers must not be mastered by anything except Christ (1 Corinthians 6:12). Whatever controls you besides God is an idol requiring repentance.

Historical Context

Ancient civilizations dealt with alcoholism and its social destruction. Despite changing drinking customs, the warning remains relevant: excessive, controlling consumption produces misery.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Do you 'tarry long' at any vice or indulgence, organizing life around it?
2. What has mastery over you that competes with Christ's lordship?

Interlinear Text

לְמַאֲכָר יִם	עַל	בְּיַין	לְבָא יִם	לְחַקְרָה	מִמְשָׁרָה
They that tarry long	H5921	at the wine	they that go	to seek	mixed wine

H309

H3196

H935

H2713

H4469

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 5:18 (Parallel theme): And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Isaiah 5:11 (Parallel theme): Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!

Proverbs 20:1 (Parallel theme): Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Psalms 75:8 (Parallel theme): For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.

Proverbs 9:2 (Parallel theme): She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table.

Amos 6:6 (Parallel theme): That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.