

“A Better Rock Means Better Wine!” Deuteronomy 32:31-33; Deuteronomy 33:26-29

³¹ For their rock *is* not like our Rock, even our enemies themselves *being* judges. ³² For their vine *is* of the vine of Sodom And of the fields of Gomorrah; Their grapes *are* grapes of gall, Their clusters *are* bitter. ³³ Their wine *is* the poison of serpents, And the cruel venom of cobras. Deuteronomy 32:31–33 (NKJV)

²⁶ “*There is* no one like the God of Jeshurun, *Who* rides the heavens to help you, And in His excellency on the clouds. ²⁷ The eternal God *is your* refuge, And underneath *are* the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, And will say, ‘Destroy!’ ²⁸ Then Israel shall dwell in safety, The fountain of Jacob alone, In a land of grain and new wine; His heavens shall also drop dew. ²⁹ Happy *are* you, O Israel! *Who is* like you, a people saved by the LORD, The shield of your help And the sword of your majesty! Your enemies shall submit to you, And you shall tread down their high places.” Deuteronomy 33:26–29 (NKJV)

Our God is better than their gods and goddesses, our wine is better than theirs!

I. *A superior ROCK, theirs is nothing like ours –*

³¹ For their rock *is* not like our Rock, ... Deuteronomy 32:31 A

1. *According to Moses, even Israel’s enemies could see the difference – even our enemies themselves being judges. Deuteronomy 32:31 B*

2. *According to the New Testament, and the Apostle Paul, our Rock is Christ / Who is God – For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. 1 Corinthians 10:4 (NKJV)*

3. *Their rock (lower case letter r) in Deuteronomy 32:31 is whatever false god or goddess they might be worshipping! Their rock is inferior, and even dangerous and the proof of this is seen in their:*

A. *Vine – ³² For their vine is of the vine of Sodom And of the fields of Gomorrah; Deuteronomy 32:32 A (NKJV) Sodom and Gomorrah, a bad source ...*

B. *Grapes - Their grapes are grapes of gall, their clusters are bitter. Deuteronomy 32: 32 B (NKJV) Bad tasting*

C. *Wine – ³³ Their wine is the poison of serpents, And the cruel venom of cobras. Deuteronomy 32: 3 (NKJV) Deadly*

4. *There is no one like our God –*

A. *Heavenly speed to help –*

²⁶ “*There is* no one like the God of Jeshurun, *Who* rides the heavens to help you, And in His excellency on the clouds. Deuteronomy 33:26

B. *He is eternal, in duration, always available to help – The eternal God is your refuge,... Deuteronomy 33:27 A*

C. *He has everlasting arms, always strong to defend, to fight for us –*

And underneath are the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, and will say, ‘Destroy!’ Deuteronomy 33:27 B

D. *A safe dwelling –*

²⁸ Then Israel shall dwell in safety, Deuteronomy 33:28 A

E. *Our wine, here called new wine –*

the fountain of Jacob alone, In a land of grain and new wine; His heavens shall also drop dew. ²⁹ Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, The shield of your help And the sword of your majesty! Your enemies shall submit to you, and you shall tread down their high places.” Deuteronomy 33:26–29 (NKJV)

II. *Our superior wine –*

In a land of grain and new wine Deuteronomy 32:28 B

1. *Grain, a staple, like bread –*

⁴ But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)

2. *Wine, not a staple, but a luxury item, it is something God-given for our joy –*

¹⁵ And wine that makes glad the heart of man, Oil to make *his* face shine, And bread which strengthens man’s heart. Psalm 104:15 (NKJV)

A. *As bread is symbolic of all food, and all things we need, even to the point here in America money is nick-named “bread”, and “dough” ... so wine is symbolic of all those things that give pleasure, we use the phrase “wining and dining” referring to partying -*

B. *Wine makes glad the heart, and –*

²² A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones. Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)

You might say whatever makes a MERRY HEART, whether it is entertainment, humor, fun, it does the same thing wine was meant to do. When I say our wine is SUPERIOR, I am also saying our entertainment, our fun, our humor, all of this is SUPERIOR to the wine, fun, humor entertainment of the non-believer!

3. *Their wine is deadly –*

³³ Their wine is the poison of serpents, and the cruel venom of cobras. Deuteronomy 32: 3 (NKJV)

4. *Our wine, Christ’s wine, is the best –*

⁹ When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. ¹⁰ And he said to him, “Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the *guests* have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!” John 2:9–10 (NKJV) John 2:9–10 (NKJV)

III. *What is it that makes our wine better?*

1. *A far superior SOURCE; theirs is a sinful source –*

³² For their vine is of the vine of Sodom And of the fields of Gomorrah; Deuteronomy 32:32 A (NKJV)

A. *This verse is not talking about the literal vines of fields of Sodom and Gomorrah –*

¹⁰ And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. Genesis 13:10 (NKJV)

B. *The source of bad, deadly wine, drunkenness, drunk-driving, depression and destructive living is the godlessness, and immorality of Sodom and Gomorrah –*

What destroyed Sodom was not bad soil, but God's judgment of sin –

¹³ But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD. Genesis 13:13 (NKJV)

²⁴ Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. ²⁵ So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. Genesis 19:24–25 (NKJV)

C. *What destroyed Sodom was an atheistic, anti-God philosophy and world-view, which is the source of abominable works –*

1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. Psalm 14:1 (NKJV)

2. *The ultimate Source of our pleasure, Our Vine is Christ, He is our Rock, He is our Vine –*

⁵ "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:5 (NKJV)

A. *It is through a connection with Christ, our abiding in Him, that we bear the fruit of the Spirit –*

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV)

B. *It is through abiding in Christ as our Source, our Vine, the Source of our Life, we find the True Wine that gladdens the heart –*

¹¹ "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:11

¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11 (NKJV)

IV. *How do we abide in Christ? Find the path of Life? And fullness of joy?*

1. *Time in God's Word, avoidance of the ways, teachings, counsel of an ungodly world –*

1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. Psalm 1:1–2 (NKJV)

A. *Delight in God's law, meditate in it day and night --- the bring blessedness, true and eternal happiness –*

B. *Ungodly sinful consul must be avoided like the plague ...*

C. *Wine, fun is enjoyed in moderation –*

²² **A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones. Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)**

¹⁸ **And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, Ephesians 5:18 (NKJV) With spiritual things, take your FILL! Let your life be His Word – Matthew 4:4**

Neither wine nor pleasure are staples and a MERRY HEART like a medicine / means a small dose – He who wrote Proverbs 17:22 also wrote -

²¹ **I said of laughter—“Madness!”; and of mirth, “What does it accomplish?” Ecclesiastes 2:2 (NKJV) The difference? Proverbs 17:22 is talking a small dose, Ecclesiastes 2:2 a way of life, laughter, entertainment, wine, as ways of life are MADNESS!**

2. *How do we find enduring peace, safety, security, joy? Not just time in, but obedience to Christ's / God's teachings –*

²⁴ **“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.**

²⁶ **“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” Matthew 7:24–27 (NKJV)**

³¹ **For their rock is not like our Rock, ... Deuteronomy 32:31 A**

A. *The wine of the Lord's Supper is a Covenant Drink –*

²⁵ **In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” 1 Corinthians 11:25 (NKJV)**

B. *Our joy was purchased through His pains -*

¹² **Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1–2 (NKJV)**

C. *We are to eat and drink not sinfully but to God's glory –*

³¹ **Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV)**

D. *The purpose of the Supper is our remembrance of Him, His cross we must embrace –*

²³ **Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. Luke 9:23 (NKJV)**

⁸ **Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Psalm 34:8**