

Water to Wine: Change for the Better

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

Introduction:

A. John 2:1-11

1. The account of the changing of wash water into the best wine is not merely for the purpose of recounting a noteworthy miracle; it begins the ministry of Jesus by foreshadowing the transformation He will effect in the lives of all humankind
2. Our lives need to be transformed - Rom. 3:23, 6:23
3. Christ can change our lives - 2Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:4
4. Even after obeying the gospel, the transformation must continue
 - a. Eph. 4:22-24

I. MISCONCEPTIONS CONCERNING CHANGING WATER TO WINE

A. "Drinking alcohol as a beverage is acceptable."

1. The Greek word oinos is translated as wine and can refer to either fermented or unfermented juice from the vine. The fresh, sweet juice of the grape was preferred by Jews
2. Jesus would not have violated the Law of Moses - Hab. 2:15

B. "This was the first miracle Jesus ever performed."

1. John 2:11 states it was the 1st miracle He performed in Cana of Galilee.
2. However, in John 1:43-51 Jesus read Nathanael's heart; but it was in Bethbarra of Judea, not in Cana of Galilee.

II. MISCONCEPTIONS REGARDING TRANSFORMING FROM SINNER TO SAINT

A. What Jesus turned into wine was not ordinary drinking water, but wash water

1. According to the Psalmist, wine was to give one joy - Psalm 104:15
2. Many today are drinking spiritual wash water and trying to convince themselves that they are enjoying it.
 - a. Alcoholism - one of every eight people who take the first drink, become alcoholics
 - b. Drug Abuse - 20% of persons between 18-25 abuse drugs; about 40,000 die from it every year
 - c. Sexual Promiscuity - 9 out of 10 people engage in sex outside of marriage
 - d. 4,400 babies are killed by abortion every day.
 - e. 70,000 teachers assaulted each year.
 - f. Crime - 29% of all households in America will become victims of crime this year.

3. The world is drinking the wash water of sin and calling it fine wine.

B. Some of the religious are drinking wash water

1. Salvation by works alone - Eph. 2:8-9
2. Salvation by faith alone - James 2:20, 26
3. Substituting God's instructions for Christians - 2Tim. 4:3-4; Prov. 16:25
4. Substitutions for the Lord's church - Eph. 4:4; 2Tim. 1:13

- C. Lasting and fulfilling happiness in your faith will never be found in doing whatever you want to do. Long term happiness, secure fellowship, and a true sense of spiritual self-worth is only found in doing what God wants.

III. HOW TO CHANGE FROM WASH WATER TO FINE WINE

- A. Recognize you need Him - John 2:3
 - 1. The proud will never be changed by Jesus; we must humble ourselves.
 - 2. Matt. 5:3; Rom. 10:3
- B. Obey His instructions - John 2:5
 - 1. Never in the Bible did anyone receive a requested blessing from God until he met the condition - Mark 16:16
 - 2. Have this attitude: "As soon as I learn an instruction, I will obey it."
- C. Serve Him intensely - John 2:7
 - 1. When you serve God, serve Him with all your might.
 - 2. Matt. 22:37; Ecc. 9:10
 - 3. Some try to put very little into it and expect to get a lot out of it.
- D. Remember that Jesus saves the best till last - John 2:10
 - 1. As good as our life in Christ is at this point - John 10:10
 - 2. It will be better later - Rev. 21:1-4

Conclusion:

- A. Jesus wants you to experience joy in this life and the greater joy that will follow the end of this life. But He will not force this joy on you; you must be willing to accept it on His terms.