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strung out or an acid tripper drone on about his hallucinations do not amount to edifying content to draw hearers closer to Christ. If this seems far-fetched, understand the word rendered *“sorcery”* among the *“works of the flesh”* (Galatians 5:19-21), is translated from a Greek word pronounced in English as “pharmakeia,” from which the word “pharmacy” is derived. It literally refers to the application of drugs to induce hallucinations for a religious experience, which was how sorcerers manipulated their followers.

Some visions are the result of psychosis. Solomon studied *“madness”* (Ecclesiastes 1:17) and warned of those whose *“talk is raving madness”* (10:13). Any visions arising from insanity are not useful for the building up of the church.

Some visions are the result of uninspired dreams. While God has revealed His will in dreams to certain men like Joseph (Genesis 37) and Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2), it is folly to assume all dreams are revelatory. Solomon explained, *“a dream comes through much activity”* (Ecclesiastes 5:3). A dream does not come through inspiration most of the time; most of the time it is the result of an active mind. Whereas the stomach digests food, the brain digests thought. When a person falls asleep without consciously concluding their thoughts, it is probable the mind will try to file away those ideations unconsciously, sometimes leading to bizarre episodes. So, most of those wild mental rides can be left unspoken. *“In the multitude of dreams and many words there is also vanity”* (Ecclesiastes 5:7).

Some visions which were revelatory did not need to be expounded upon ad infinitum. When the Holy Spirit was still imparting inspiration to first-century disciples, the disciples had to be careful about the exercise of their spiritual gifts. *“How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints”* (1st Corinthians 14:26-33). Prophets in

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A FLAWED COMPARISON

Doy Moyer

Trying to compare drinking alcohol with other “bad habits” just doesn’t work, unless we are actually talking about drugs that significantly alter sobriety and the ability to make sound judgments. There are plenty of those types of drugs, but comparing drinking to something like eating donuts is ludicrous. We aren’t just talking here about long-term health. We are talking about the immediate effects that destroy one’s ability to think. If eating donuts does that to you, then by all means quit eating them. But I have yet to meet the person who destroyed a family or killed someone in a car wreck over losing one’s mind on donuts. If that kind of comparison is the justification for drinking today, then sell it elsewhere.

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the early church were required to take turns speaking one at a time. None were allowed to monopolize the church’s time. Their visions came from God, but they were required to exercise decorum.

Some visions were simply unlawful to relate to others. Paul wrote, *“I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago — whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows — such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows — how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is **not lawful for a man to utter”*** (2nd Corinthians 12:1-4). Why this man the apostle referred to heard things in heaven it would not be correct to repeat is not for us to know. What is to be known is that even legitimate heavenly visions did not always need to be spoken of.

**"WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?"**

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.
Members Expected.

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN
ANY TRESPASS...
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

GALATIANS 6:1

CONFESS TRESPASSES

James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN"

PROVERBS 25:11

"Put first things first and we get
second things thrown in; put
second things first and we lose
both first and second things."

— C.S. Lewis

GIVE ME THE BIBLE

KDNF 840AM

Sunday @ 9:00 a.m.

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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"DWELLING IN THE THINGS WHICH HE HATH SEEN"

Bryan Matthew Dockens

"Let no man rob you of your prize by a voluntary humility and worshipping of the angels, dwelling in the things which he hath seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast the Head, from whom all the body, being supplied and knit together through the joints and bands, increasing with the increase of God" (Colossians 2:18-19 ASV).

The King James Version and New King James Version disappoint on this passage, opting to insert the word "not" before "seen," which communicates that the religious fraudsters would be lying, having invented some dream or vision and using it to intentionally deceive their hearers. What Paul was truly saying by inspiration is that, so far as the fraudsters would be aware, they really had seen what they claimed, but it was still not worth talking about. It is a stirring notion to contemplate what one might have seen that he need not talk about.

Some visions are the result of intoxication. Wise Solomon warned, *"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 will see strange things"* (Proverbs 23:31-33). Alcohol and other mind-altering substances cause users to see what is not real. Certainly, listening to a wino prattle on about what he has seen while drunk or a stoner babble about what he's beheld while
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