

*We are told that Jesus drank wine on the cross; however, we also know that Jesus promised before he was crucified that he will not drink wine until the day when he drinks new with his disciples in God's Kingdom.*

Jesus was offered a sponge soaked in vinegar at his crucifixion. Vinegar diluted with water was used during military campaigns to quench one's thirst.

The Lord said that he would "not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God (Mk 14:25)."

Numbers chapter six explains vows taken by Nazarites which restricted them from certain things: "He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried (Nu 6:1-3)."

Regarding the Nazarite J. Vernon McGee wrote:

First, he was not to drink wine or strong drink. Anything that came from the vine was forbidden him.

This has nothing to do with the question of whether it is right or wrong to drink wine. May I say this, and I want to say it carefully and I want you to hear me carefully. The Christian standard is not a standard of right or wrong. The question is this: What is your purpose in doing what you are doing...[?]"<sup>1</sup>

Matthew 27:34 was a fulfillment of Psalm 69:21.

Regarding this passage<sup>2</sup> John MacArthur wrote:

**wine mingled with gall.** "Gall" simply refers to something bitter. Mark 15:23 identifies it as myrrh, a narcotic. The Jews had a custom, based on Prov. 31:6, of administering a pain-deadening medication mixed with wine to victims of crucifixion, in order to deaden the pain. Tasting what it was, Christ, though thirsty, "would not drink," lest it dull His senses before He completed His work. The lessening of physical pain would probably not have diminished the efficacy of His atoning work...But He needed His full mental faculties for the hours yet to come. It was necessary for Him to be awake and fully conscious, for example, to minister to the dying thief (Luke 23:43).<sup>3</sup>

One day we will drink wine with the Lord in His Father's kingdom (Mt 26:29). Until that time, we take communion in remembrance of Him (1 Co 11:24). At the Lord's Table we can: look backward to the cross (11:26a), look inward examining ourselves (11:28) and look forward to His return (11:26b).<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> McGee, J. V. (1991). Thru the Bible commentary: The Law (Numbers) (electronic ed., Vol. 8, p. 42). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>2</sup> [T]hey gave Him wine mixed with gall to drink. But when He tasted it, He would not drink it. The Holy Bible: Holman Christian standard version. (2009). (Mt 27:34). Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.

<sup>3</sup> MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). The MacArthur Study Bible (electronic ed., p. 1449). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

<sup>4</sup> Willmington, H. L. (1999). The Outline Bible (1 Co 11:26-28). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

