



*"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."*

## A Controversial Newsletter "The Printed Voice of Summit Theological Seminary"

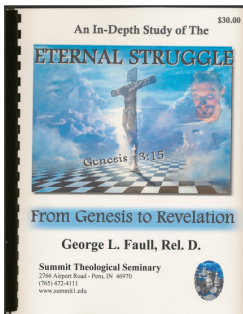
~ All articles are written by George L. Faull, Rel. D. unless otherwise stated ~

Vol. 23 No. 1

January 2010

George L. Faull, Editor

### Dear Brother Faull,



At the bottom of page 146 in the Eternal Struggle book, it says, "The priest could not drink wine while offering sacrifices; and our Lord refused to drink the wine he was offered on the cross, when He was offering Himself up as the supreme sacrifice."

One of our members read **John 19:29-30**, "29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. 30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.'"

We looked at some other Scriptures from other Gospel books, but we could not settle the matter.

Do you have an explanation for the discrepancy?

We'd appreciate your comments.

### ANSWER:

In **Leviticus 10:7** the priest was told not to drink wine (*Yagin*) nor strong drink (*shekar*, which is often very sweet and is where we get our word sugar) when they served as a priest.

**Psalms 69:21** prophesied they would give gall (Heb. *Rosh*) and vinegar (*chemets*) to Jesus to drink. This Scripture was fulfilled in the following verses.

(The above words are Hebrew words, while the following words are Greek words.)

**Mark 15:23** says they offered Jesus wine (*oinos*) mingled with myrrh (*smurnizo*). **He refused it.**

**Matthew 27:34** says vinegar (*oxos*) mingled with gall (*chole*) was offered and **He did not drink it.**

**Matthew 27:48** Offered vinegar (*oxos*) on a sponge. **He drank it.**

**Mark 15:36** Vinegar (*oxos*) on a sponge. **He drank it.**

**Luke 23:26** Vinegar (*oxos*) was offered by soldiers, but **does not indicate if He did or did not drink it. He later said, "I thirst"**.

**John 19:29** Vinegar (*oxos*) offered and **He received it.**

**Notice He did not drink;**

- ↪ **Wine** (*oinos*) He did not want intoxicating drink.
- ↪ **Myrrh** (*smurnizo*) A narcotic. He did not want to be stupefied.
- ↪ **Gall** (*chole*) Bitter and some times a poison. He did not want to die of poisoning.

**He did receive vinegar** (*oxos*).

The Nazarite vow required that a Nazarite was not to drink wine or strong drink **or the vinegar of wine or strong drink, nor liquor of grapes nor eat moist grapes or dried ones. Numbers. 6:3**

However, Jesus was not a Nazarite, He was a Nazarene (from Nazareth).

This verse shows clearly that wine and vinegar of wine, strong drink and the vinegar of strong drink, are not the same things.

The priests were not Nazarites and not forbidden as the Nazarites were to drink vinegar of wine or vinegar of strong drink. They were not forbidden all grape products as the Nazarites were.

Therefore, Jesus was not forbidden to drink from the sponge the ordinary everyday drink of the Roman soldier, which was the watered down vinegar.

It is not likely soldiers on duty were given to drink intoxicating drinks, but they may have drunk the vinegar of fruits, which as we have shown, was sometimes very sweet.

**The history of vinegar says, "All that is necessary to make vinegar is to let wine-fresh uncooked cider or other fresh juices, stay uncorked. You will get a batch of vinegar in a week or so."**

*Another source says, "Romans made a vinegar called 'balsamic vinegar' and they made it from boiled grape juice. Balsamic vinegar is not wine vinegar and it has been made for thousands of years."*

There is no way of knowing which Jesus was given.

So Jesus, our High Priest, did not violate the Levitical Law of the priest that served in the tabernacle, by partaking of the vinegar they offered Him on the sponge from someone who ran to quench His thirst.

It appears then, that He was offered wine and myrrh in the beginning and later was offered vinegar and gall. He refused both of these.

Later He drank of that which was not forbidden of a priest.

Besides, less than 24 hours before this He had drank of the fruit of the vine in the upper room. It was not grapes that were forbidden and so He was free to quench His thirst and still be our Savior.