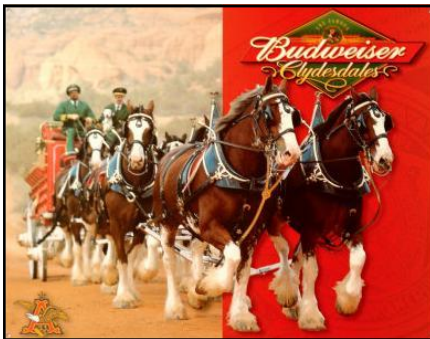


## "HE ESCAPED! And his name was Mr. Bills!"

The **VERY FIRST TIME** we hear of someone being *intoxicated* in the Word of God, is when Noah drank wine, "...and was **DRUNKEN** [INTOXICATION]; and he was **UNCOVERED** [TO MAKE BARE OR NAKED] within his tent" (GENESIS 9:21).



But, God spoke to Aaron, the *high priest* saying, "**DO NOT DRINK WINE NOR STRONG DRINK**, thou, nor thy **SONS** with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, **LEST YE DIE...that ye may PUT DIFFERENCE between HOLY AND UNHOLY, and between UNCLEAN AND CLEAN**" (LEVITICUS 10:8-10).

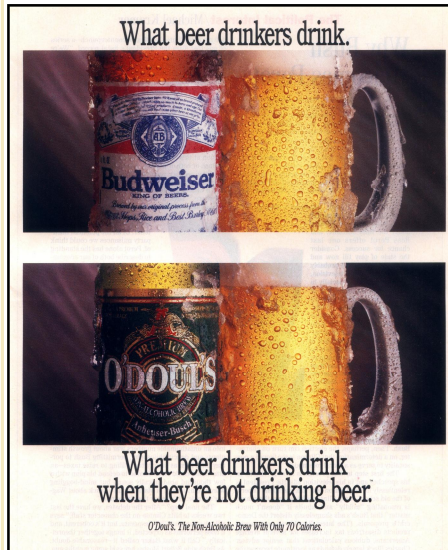


Today as Christians, **WE** are the **TEMPLE** of God and we "*service this temple*": "*Know ye not that **YE ARE** the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God **DWELLETH IN YOU?** If any man **DEFILE** the temple of God, **HIM** shall God **DESTROY**; for the temple of God is **HOLY**, which temple **YE ARE***" (1 COR. 3:16).

We, like *Aaron and his sons*, are "...a chosen generation, a **ROYAL PRIESTHOOD**, an **HOLY nation**, a **PECULIAR people...who hath [BEEN] CALLED...OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELLOUS LIGHT**" (1 PETER 2:9).

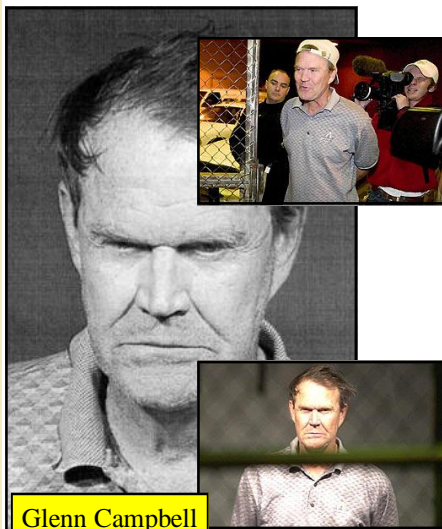
We, too, are held to a **HIGHER STANDARD** just as those who served in the tabernacle in

the wilderness, and we **DO NOT INTOXICATE OURSELVES** with *wine or strong drink!*



With this begins *the story of Mr. Bills*, who was drunken, and staggering down a dirt road on a certain "*pay day*," on his way to purchase **MORE** strong drink for his consumption.

Sitting at a light in his vehicle, and observing Mr. Bills, was a *young Christian* man, his wife and four children. They watched as Mr. Bills *more than once* stopped suddenly, and grasped his chest as if in pain, and then, continued walking towards the store.



Glenn Campbell

When the light turned green, the family slowly passed the man, then stopped and offered their assistance. They took him into their car and discovered him to be in *despair*. He also had one eye, and had wet himself.

Three of their four children scurried to the back of the station wagon, and watched the man in amazement as he struggled to speak! The young couple spoke to him about *Jesus!*

They took Mr. Bills to meet their new pastor, and he, and the young husband gathered with Mr. Bills in prayer for *repentance to God*.

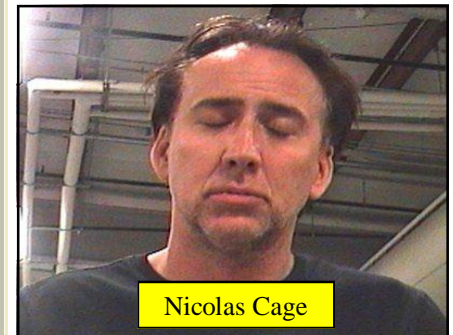


Diana Ross

Mr. Bills was a hired field servant for a certain family in the area, and lived in a small makeshift room nailed to the back of the family's home. He lived in filth and disarray.

Mr. Bills showed him his "*bible*," a single *page* of the book of Psalms which, he said, he read over and over, front and back.

On his second visit to bring Mr. Bills a bible, the young man was met by the owners who asked, "*What did you do to him? He has **CHANGED!***" When Mr. Bills emerged from the fields that



Nicolas Cage

## INTOXICATION...is poison to the MIND!

day, he was dressed in a clean work uniform, and upon entering his "one-room" shack, the young man saw that it was spotlessly clean.

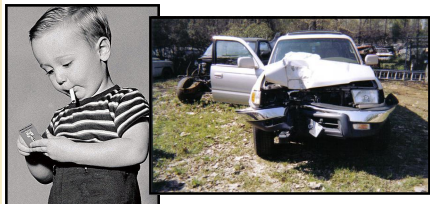


Years passed before this young Christian man ever saw Mr. Bills again. His employers had moved away, and the home was boarded up.



But one evening, while the Christian man was sitting in his car, waiting for his wife in the store, another car was also parked next to his, with a male driver and someone sitting in the shadows in the back seat.

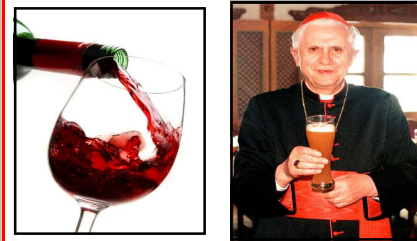
Soon, another man left the store and got in that car. He opened a pack of Twinkies and took one, and gave the package to the man sitting in the back. When he emerged from the shadows to receive it, it was a neatly dressed Mr. Bills...and the driver drove off.



God says that "FOOLISHNESS IS BOUND in the heart of a child" (PROVERBS 22:15), and many "children" choose to REMAIN children. But the apostle Paul wrote: "...when I became a MAN, I PUT AWAY CHILDISH THINGS" (1 COR. 13:11).

It is "CHILDISH" to continue in a destructive way of life, to ignore the warning signs of foolishness. There is only ONE WAY to reverse childish behavior: OBEY the Word of God.

God said that "Wine is a MOCKER [TO MAKE MOUTHS AT], strong drink is RAGING [TO MAKE A LOUD SOUND]: and whosoever is DECEIVED thereby is NOT WISE" (PROVERBS 20:1).



If you profess to be a Christian, then WHY ARE YOU DRINKING an intoxicant?

Every drinker is well acquainted with that "WARM FEELING" after their first sip. You know that's the beginning of the intoxication process! It goes straight to the BRAIN and

begins to affect THE MIND'S ABILITY to think, removing "barriers" that prevent foolishness, and allowing FILTHINESS, FOOLISH TALKING, JESTING, and many other things "...which are NOT CONVENIENT" (EPHES. 5:4).



All sin has consequences, and ADDICTION in all forms has taken a tremendous toil on families, including many Catholic priests.

God said, "For the DRUNKARD and the GLUTTON shall come to POVERTY: and DROWSINESS shall clothe a man with RAGS" (PROVERBS 23:21).

That's what it was doing to Mr. Bills, until he ESCAPED the bondage of wine and strong drink because he HEARD & OBEYED the Word of God as a little child obeys its parents.

So many of this world's celebrities, and too many of the world's YOUNG people in bondage to addiction of every kind, wrecking their own lives, and the lives of others.

But, if they, like Mr. Bills, will "...HUMBLE THEMSELVES, and pray, and SEEK [GOD'S] face, and TURN from their WICKED WAYS; then [GOD] will HEAR from heaven, and will FORGIVE their sin" (2 CHRON. 7:14). If you are a DRUNK, ask God to SAVE YOU, and He will!

