

## “The Walking Revelers”

by John Isaac Edwards

This was the front page cover headline of the Sunday, October 2, 2016 *Tribune Star* serving Terre Haute and the Wabash valley. It is reported, “The party got started early Saturday in downtown Terre Haute as Indiana State University Homecoming revelers made their way from bar to bar as part of the 2016 Walk, an unofficial homecoming tradition. Groups of students and alumni had their own distinctive shirts that proclaimed, ‘I vote for vodka,’ or ‘Drunk from Day One,’ a take-off from the university’s logo, ‘More from Day One.’”

According to an October 1, 2016 WTHITV10 report, “Of all the homecoming events, one that draws many people is the famous walk. It’s an Indiana State University tradition where students, alumni and locals trek down Wabash to Memorial Stadium, stopping at each bar on their way. This ritual includes catching up with old friends, making new ones and a lot of drinking.”

In light of these goings-ons, we need to be reminded of what the word of the Lord says about revellings and drinking.

1) **Revellings.** Paul wrote the churches of Galatia, “Now the works of the flesh are

manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envying, murders, drunkenness, **revellings**, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:19-21). Reveling is a work of the flesh. It is mentioned in the midst of such wicked works as adultery and murder. Scripture is clear that those who engage in revellings will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Those who live to the will of God do not have any involvement or participation in revellings. “For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, **revellings**, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you” (1 Pet. 4:3-4). Strong’s defines the word translated *banquetings* as “a drinking-bout or carousal.”

Paul appealed to saints in Rome, “Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in **rioting** and

drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” (Rom. 13:13-14).

*Thayer’s Greek Lexicon* says the word translated *revellings* and *rioting* was used in the Greek writings of, “...a nocturnal and riotous procession of half-drunken and frolicsome fellows who after supper parade through the streets with torches and music in honour of Bacchus or some other deity, and sing and play before houses of male and female friends; hence used generally of feasts and drinking parties that are protracted till late at night and indulge in revelry.”

The homecoming parade through the streets of Terre Haute is a blatant example of revellings.

2) **Drinking.** The Scriptures condemn drinking in no uncertain terms. Observe these Bible verses on drinking:

**Proverbs 20:1** — “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”

**Proverbs 23:29-35** — “Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions?

who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not

sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.”

**Isaiah 5:11** — “Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!”

**Isaiah 5:22** — “Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink.”

**1 Corinthians 6:9-10** — “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor

effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

**Ephesians 5:18** — “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”

As Ephesians five admonishes, “Be not ye therefore partakers with them. . . . And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (vv. 7, 11).

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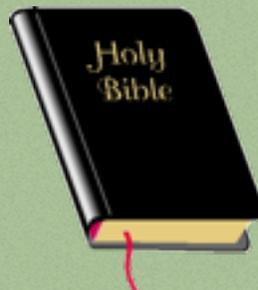
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