

(Continued)

- B. But, how did they have “fresh” grape juice some six months later than the grape harvest?**
1. It is known among the writings of Josephus, and others that grapes are preserved fresh through the year, and that the “juice” may be fresh pressed out when needed.
  2. Clement, of Alexandria, A.D. 180, designates the liquid used by Christ as “the blood of the vine.”
  3. How did Jesus feel about “fermented grape juice”?
    - a. Mk. 2:22, “New wine in old bottles.” (Mt. 9:17)
    - b. Lk. 22:34, “surfeiting and drunkenness,” literally, in drunkenness, intoxication. Christ here warns equally against being “overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness, and cares of this life.” He warns against drinks that would intoxicate a person.
- C. One final support that Jesus used the “fruit of the vine” not WINE. Consider The Wedding Feast at Cana, Jn. 2:1-11.**
1. It is outstanding here that Jesus **TURNED WATER INTO WINE**. The Greek word “oinos” is used, and therefore many claim that Jesus made real intoxicating wine! But we know that “oinos” is a generic word, and as such, includes all stages of the juice of the grape.
  2. The occasion was a wedding feast. The material was **WATER**. The operator was **JESUS CHRIST**, the same One who, in the beginning, fixed the law by which the vine takes up water and converts it into pure, unfermented juice.
  3. The character of the wine will determine the moral influence of the miracle.
    - a. They had run out of wine. Jesus’ mother tells Jesus of the problem.
    - b. He directs that six water jugs be filled with **WATER**.
    - c. He then directs to draw and give to the Master of the feast.
    - d. The Master of the feast pronounced it wine – **GOOD WINE**.
  4. Is it not incredible that any Christian person would suggest that Jesus on that occasion would “**MIRACULOUSLY**” produce an “intoxicating wine”? To me, it is blasphemy!

**CONCLUSION:** Chrysostom, born A.D. 344, says, “Now, indeed, making plain that it is he who changes into wine the water in the vines and the rain drawn up by the roots. He produced instantly at the wedding-feast that which is formed in the plant during a long course of time.” Bible Comm., P.305

**Plainly, don’t get short changed.** Let’s be ready to meet our Maker. The Bible teaches that to avoid hell and gain heaven - one must:

- 1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (Acts 16:31)
- 2) Repent Of Sins (Acts 17:30)
- 3) Confess Christ Audibly (Acts 8:37)
- 4) Be Baptized In Water (Acts 2:38)
- 5) Live A Christian Life (Acts 14:22)
- 6) Be Active In the Church (Acts 2:47)

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