

~REVELRY (123)

[Greek, *ko'mos*]

- The Greek word *ko'mos*, translated revelry, occurs three times in the Christian Greek Scriptures and always in a bad or unfavorable sense. Joseph Thayers Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament points out that in ancient Greek writings it applied to a nocturnal and riotous procession of half-drunken and frolicsome fellows who after supper parade through the streets with torches and music in honor of Bacchus or some other deity, or a victor in the games, and sing and play before the houses of their male and female friends. [1889, p. 367]
- Such licentious and intemperate conduct, with street processions that were similar to modern carnival celebrations in certain lands, were common in Greek cities of the apostles' time. So warning counsel on this was appropriate and beneficial for true worshipers.
- Revelries are definitely not for Christians, they are condemned by God's Word. Before they became Christians, some of those to whom Peter wrote his letter, residents in Greek-influenced provinces in Asia Minor
- Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the temporary residents scattered about in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, to the ones chosen. (1 Peter 1:1)
- Proceeded in deeds of loose conduct, lusts, excesses with wine, revelries, drinking matches, and illegal idolatries. But upon becoming Christians, they ceased such things.
- For the time that has passed by is sufficient for you to have worked out the will of the nations when you proceeded in deeds of loose conduct, lusts, excesses with wine, revelries, drinking matches, and illegal idolatries. (1 Peter 4:3)
- Because you do not continue running with them in this course to the same low sink of debauchery, they are puzzled and go on speaking abusively of you. (1 Peter 4:4)
- With its gross sensuality and dissolution, a revelry was a work belonging to darkness in which Christians would not walk.

- **The night is well along, the day has drawn near. Let us therefore put off the works belonging to darkness and let us put on the weapons of the light. (Romans 13:12)**
- **As in the daytime let us walk decently, not in revelries and drunken bouts, not in illicit intercourse and loose conduct, not in strife and jealousy. (Romans 13:13)**
- **But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not be planning ahead for the desires of the flesh. (Romans 13:14)**
- **The Bible does not rule out joy and merriment. Man is told to rejoice in his Creator, the husband to rejoice in his wife, the laborer in the work of his hands, and the farmer in the fruit of his toil.**
- **Rejoice in Yehowah and be joyful, you righteous ones, and cry out joyfully, all you who are upright in heart. (Psalms 32:11)**
- **Let your water source prove to be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. (Proverbs 5:18)**
- **And I have seen that there is nothing better than that the man should rejoice in his works, for that is his portion, because who will bring him in to look on what is going to be after him? (Ecclesiastes 3:22)**
- **And now here I have brought the firstfruits of the fruitage of the ground that Yehowah has given me. You must also deposit it before Yehowah your God and bow down before Yehowah your God. (Deuteronomy 26:10)**
- **And you must rejoice over all the good that Yehowah your God has given you and your household, you and the Levite and the alien resident who is in your midst. (Deuteronomy 26:11)**
- **Food and drink can accompany and contribute to rejoicing.**
- **Go, eat your food with rejoicing and drink your wine with a good heart, because already the true God has found pleasure in your works. (Ecclesiastes 9:7)**
- **And wine that makes the heart of mortal man rejoice, to make the face shine with oil, and bread that sustains the very heart of mortal man. (Psalms 104:15)**

- **Yet moderation should prevail.**
- **Do not come to be among heavy drinkers of wine, among those who are gluttonous eaters of flesh. (Proverbs 23:20)**
- **The overseer should therefore be irreprehensible, a husband of one wife, moderate in habits, sound in mind, orderly, hospitable, qualified to teach. (1 Timothy 3:2)**
- **Women should likewise be serious, not slanderous, moderate in habits, faithful in all things. (1 Timothy 3:11)**
- **Therefore, whether you are eating or drinking or doing anything else, do all things for God's glory. (1 Corinthians 10:31)**
- **Carrying merrymaking to the point of intoxication, along with scenes of disorder and sensuality, is **revelry**. Paul included **revelries** among the works of the flesh, the practicers of which would not inherit God's kingdom.**
- **Now the works of the flesh are manifest, and they are fornication, uncleanness, loose conduct. (Galatians 5:19)**
- **Idolatry, practice of spiritism, enmities, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, contentions, divisions, sects. (Galatians 5:20)**
- **Envies, drunken bouts, revelries, and things like these. As to these things I am forewarning you, the same way as I did forewarn you, that those who practice such things will not inherit God's kingdom. (Galatians 5:21)**