

## **Is the Big Book Really Outdated?**

Very often, a newcomer is told, "Don't waste your time with the Big Book. It was written back in the 1930's and has never been brought up to date. We know so much more now." Of course, that type of statement is made by a person or persons who have never bothered to put the Program of Alcoholics Anonymous to the test as did the Authors of the Big Book nor those of us who have accepted that challenge.

If we take a moment and look at what Alcoholics Anonymous is really about, we will readily recognize that a particular problem, alcoholism is what drove us to this Fellowship is search of a way to avoid death or permanent insanity by drinking. And it would appear from some of the oldest historical writings that alcoholism has been around since the early days of mankind. In that great spiritual history book the Bible, King Solomon wrote his observations of alcoholics in Proverbs 23. What he witnessed is no different than the manner in which alcoholics react to alcohol today.

And the recovered members of Alcoholics Anonymous state that the God of their understanding, that they found as the result of taking the Steps by the Big Book, has proved to be the Solution to their alcoholism as well as all their other problems. We can be quite certain that the God of our understanding has not changed in recent years

So, since the Problem, Alcoholism, hasn't changed and the Solution, God as we understood Him, hasn't changed, what is so new? And what method of dealing with alcoholism has produced more recovered alcoholics than the Twelve Step Program of Alcoholics Anonymous? There isn't anything that can begin to touch the success of the Program of recovery as outlined in the Basic Text for the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous

Unfortunately, many who seek help for their alcoholism bet their life on the Fellowship and meetings rather than the Program, i.e. the life giving Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous protected by the life saving Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. That has proved to be a fatal mistake for hundreds of thousands of alcoholics. Rarely, if ever, do the alcoholics who apply and live by the Program ever return to drinking. Very few of those who bet their life on the Fellowship and meetings ever stay sober. And all the new information that we now know only compounds the fatality rate of alcoholics who seek shelter within the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. An intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father is our only hope for a happy and purposeful sobriety. The real purpose of putting the Twelve Steps to work in our lives is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us, not to impress folks with our wit, ideas, opinions, philosophy and the nature of our issues in meetings.

**We recover by the Steps we take, not the meetings we make!**