

## Misquoted Bible Quotes

'Every Scripture is God-Breathed and is given by His inspiration. It is valuable for teaching, for reproof, for conviction of sin, for correction, for discipline, for teaching the truth and righteousness, so that the people of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work' (2 Timothy 3:16).

Written within the pages of the Holy Bible are the wisest, most impressive and profound things in the simplest language. The Bible is timeless and is appropriate for every person of any age in any time of history, any country, language or culture. Quotes from the Bible are frequently used in every-day language by people who often have no idea they are actually quoting Scripture or in reality, they are misquoting or misusing Scripture, and the Scriptures usually mean something entirely different to what people are trying to say when they repeat these quotes. Misquoting verses written in the Bible is actually twisting the Scriptures and is diminishing the holiness of God's precious Word to that of a mere book. 'As in all of the epistles (in the New Testament) teaching in them of (Spiritual) things, there are some topics that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unsettled twist, as they also do to the other Scriptures (the Old Testament) to their own destruction' (2 Peter 3:16). The Bible is much more than just a book. It is the written revelation of God and His only way of salvation for all mankind, and Scriptures are the Spiritual life given to us as God's manual for us to follow. The Lord Jesus Himself is the Word of God (Revelation 19:13) and when we glibly misquote the words in the Bible, we are misquoting God Himself because every word is God-breathed. We will all have to give an account of every idle word we speak. By our own words we are justified and by our own words we are condemned (Matthew 12:36 & 37). The knowledge of that should be enough to make people think twice before they minimise the words spoken by God. These Bible quotes were written thousands of years ago.

**Misquote:** 'The Lord's Prayer' ... Many people quote phrases from the Lord's Prayer and do not know it is written in the Bible in two places, and it was spoken by the Lord Jesus to teach people how to pray. That is why it is called the Lord's Prayer. At that particular time Jesus was not praying, He was teaching the disciples how to pray. When people find the Lord's Prayer in their Bibles, they are often overjoyed. Jesus said to pray like this, "Our Father Who is in heaven, holy is Your name. Let Your Kingdom come. Let Your will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Give us today, our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but rescue us from evil, for Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen" (Matthew 6:9 to 13; Luke 11:2 to 4).

**Misquote:** 'What you sow, so shall you reap'. 'What goes around, comes around'. 'He'll get his!' 'Every dog has his day'. 'Every action has a reaction' ... All these phrases mean the same thing said in different ways. 'They who sow righteousness will reap a sure reward' (Proverbs 11:18). 'They who sow iniquity will reap calamity' (Proverbs 22:8). 'Do not be deceived. God will not allow Himself to be mocked for whatever a man sows, that will be what he reaps. A person reaps what they sow' (Galatians 6:7).

**Misquote:** 'Birds of a feather flock together'. 'Every winged bird according to its kind' ... People think this verse means, people of the same ilk tend to gather together. That is nothing like what the Scripture means. 'God created the sea creatures and every living creature that moves, which the waters brought forth abundantly according to their kinds (according to their species) and every winged bird according to its kind (species)' (Genesis 1:21). That means that an emu cannot breed with a sparrow; an albatross cannot breed with a penguin. Each species can only breed with another of the same species.

**Misquote:** 'Spare the rod and spoil the child' ... God believes in discipline but not abuse. He says if we love our children we will discipline and correct them which can ultimately guide them into eternal life. Without discipline and correction they will run wild and bring us shame and heartbreak. 'He who spares the rod of correction hates his son but he who loves his son disciplines him early' (Proverbs 13:24). 'Do not withhold correction from the child for if you strike him with the rod he will not die. If you hit him with the rod you may deliver his soul from hell' (Proverbs 23:13 & 14). 'The rod of correction gives wisdom but a child left undisciplined brings their mother to shame ... Correct your child and they will give you rest, yes they will delight your soul' (Proverbs 29:15 & 17).

**Misquote:** 'She is making a rod for her own back' ... The meaning of this phrase indicates a person is going to make life hard for themselves in the future. That is not quite right. It is often quoted when women want to comment on the lack of discipline shown by a naughty child and they say the mother is making a rod for her own back. 'There is a whip for a horse, a bridle for a donkey and a rod for the back of fools' (Proverbs 26:3). 'Discipline and the rod are for the back of him who is without sense' (Proverbs 10:13). That is the rod of correction not a 'rod' of hardship.

**Misquote:** 'Youth is wasted on the young' ... That is very true. Because of a lack of discipline and wise guidance, young people are often very foolish. 'Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him' (Proverbs 22:15).

**Misquote:** 'I was only joking' ... How many people do or say something really stupid then in their embarrassment say they were only joking? God says they are as foolish as a madman and we are not to do that. We are to speak truth and be honest and direct. 'Like a madman who shoots firebrands, arrows and death so is the man who deceives his neighbour and then says, "Was I not joking?"' (Proverbs 26:19). 'Let your 'yes' be 'yes' and let your 'no' be 'no', anything more than that comes from the devil' (Matthew 5:37).

**Misquote:** 'He cut off his nose to spite his face' ... This does not quite mean somebody has done something so silly they will ultimately destroy their own happiness, but it comes close. The Lord is actually saying, do not provoke others to anger or you will suffer the consequences. 'The churning of milk brings forth butter, the wringing of the nose brings blood so the forcing of wrath brings strife' (Proverbs 30:33).

**Misquotes:** 'He is his own worst enemy'. 'Honour among thieves' ... The first misquote means a person continually does stupid things that bring problems upon themselves. The second misquote means the friend of a thief will incur the same punishment even if he remains silent and he will hate himself for it. These quotes are in one verse. 'Whoever is an accomplice of a thief is an enemy of his own soul and he falls under the same curse but dares not disclose anything' (Proverbs 29:24).

**Misquote:** 'Heaping coals of fire on his head' ... People think this means a kind of retribution but it actually means to make somebody feel ashamed of themselves. 'If your enemy is hungry give him bread to eat. If he is thirsty give him water to drink for in doing so you will heap coals of fire upon his head and the Lord will reward you' (Proverbs 25:21 & 22).

**Misquote:** 'Sharp as a two-edged sword' ... This Bible quote has two completely opposite meanings, one is positive and the other is very negative. The Word of God itself is a two-edged sword. 'May the high praises of God be in their mouths (worship) and the two-edged sword (the Scriptures) in their hands' (Psalm 149:6). 'For the Word of God is alive and full of power and is sharper than any two-edged sword, dividing the soul and the spirit, the joints and the marrow, and is able to discern the thoughts of the heart' (Hebrews 4:12). 'Out of His (Jesus') mouth proceeded a sharp two-edged sword' (Revelation 1:16). The opposite is: 'The lips of a loose woman drip honey and her mouth is smoother than oil but in the end she is as bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death and her steps lead straight to hell' (Proverbs 5:3 to 5).

**Misquote:** 'She is the apple of her daddy's eye' ... That is so cute but not what the Scriptures mean. All people who love God are the apple of His eye and we are to keep God's teaching as the apple of our eye. In other words, He loves us and we are to love Him and His teachings. 'Keep me (a child of God, a believer) as the apple of Your (God's) eye' (Psalm 17:8). 'Keep My (God's) commandments and live, and guard My teaching as the apple of your eye' (Proverbs 7:2). 'He who touches you (the Lord's people) touches the apple of His eye' (Zechariah 2:8). That last verse is a warning to those who persecute God's people. If anyone messes with God's people they are messing around with God Himself. He says it is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10:31).

**Misquote:** 'Eat, drink and be merry' ... This Bible quote has both positive and negative meanings. It can mean blessing or a negative, bad attitude. Israel was being obedient to the Lord and was blessed. 'King Solomon was king over all Israel ... Judah and Israel were many like the sand by the sea in multitude. They ate, drank and made merry (rejoiced)' (1 Kings 4:1 & 20). Another blessing for obedience to the Lord is 'Go your way, eat your bread with joy and drink your grape juice with a merry (cheerful) heart, for the Lord has already accepted your works' (Ecclesiastes 9:7). The bad attitude: 'This is what I will do, I will pull down my barns and build larger ones and there I will store my goods and I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods. Take your ease, eat, drink and be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night God will demand your soul and all the goods you have, whose will they be?"' (Luke 12:18 to 20).

**Misquote:** 'Pride comes before a fall' ... If we are snobbish, haughty, proud and look down on other people we will be brought down. 'Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall' (Proverbs 16:18).

**Misquote:** 'Money is the root of all evil' ... That is a serious misquote and is very wrong! Money is not evil, it is the love of money that is evil. 'The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil and through this greed some have been led away from the faith and have pierced their souls with many sorrows' (1 Timothy 6:10).

**Misquotes:** 'The writing is on the wall'. 'Weighed things up'. 'Checks and balances'. 'His days are numbered' ... All four misquotes are in one passage of Scripture. There is quite a story attached to these quotes but to give a brief outline; King Nebuchadnezzar had raided the Jewish temple in Jerusalem stealing gold and silver vessels. Nebuchadnezzar was overly proud of his achievements and refused to acknowledge God. For that, God humbled him by causing the king to lose his mind for seven years and only after the king had repented of his sin of pride and praised God, did God heal his mind and restore his kingdom. After the king's son Belshazzar became the king, Belshazzar commanded a party of a thousand people drink from those stolen vessels, then they praised the gods (idols) of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood and stone. Immediately there appeared the fingers of a man's hand that wrote on the plaster of the wall in the king's palace and when the king saw the part of the hand that wrote, he was so terrified he paled and collapsed. Daniel, the righteous prophet of the Lord, reminded Belshazzar of what God had done to humble Nebuchadnezzar and told him that he (Belshazzar) knew all this but had been defiant, and it was God's hand he had seen writing on the wall. The interpretation of what God wrote on the wall was, God had numbered the days of Belshazzar's kingship and brought them to an end. He was checked, 'weighed up in the balances' and was found wanting then he died during the night (Daniel 5:1 to 31).

**Misquote:** 'Old wine, new bottles' ... This misquote is taken to mean something entirely different to what Jesus said which is, 'No one puts new wine in an old wineskin for the skin will burst and the wine will be spilled, and the skins ruined' (Matthew 9:17; Mark 2:22; Luke 5:37). This parable had nothing to do with wine. Jesus was using the concept of the wineskins to make a point. He was not going to 'patch up' the old covenant God made with Israel but Jesus was about to make a whole new covenant with the house of Israel (Jeremiah 31:31 to 33; Hebrews 8:8 to 12; 10:16 & 17). The wine represents His blood – with His blood he would make the new covenant (Hebrews 9:20).

**Misquote:** 'She's the salt of the earth' ... People often misquote this Scripture when they are trying to acknowledge good works done by someone but Jesus said, 'You (all Christians) are the salt of the earth but if salt has lost its taste (or quality) how can the saltiness be restored? It is not good for anything but to be thrown out' (Matthew 5:13). Jesus meant all believers must continually represent the true nature of God.

**Misquote:** 'Do not hide your light under a bushel' ... This misquote is often said to mean we need to be 'out there' doing whatever we want but Jesus said, 'You (all Christians) are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel but on a lampstand and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men so they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father Who is in heaven' (Matthew 5:14 to 16).

**Misquotes:** 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth'. 'Turn the other cheek'. 'He would give the shirt off his back'. 'Walk the extra mile' ... These four misquotes come from the one teaching of Jesus. People use these verses to justify a vengeful act, when they are being very pious, when people feel somebody is very kind and when a person goes out of their way to help others. Jesus did not mean any of those things. He meant simply, be humble. Do not aggressively fight back when it is not necessary and do what we can for other people. Jesus said, 'You have heard it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth', but I (Jesus) say to you, do not resist the man who strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other one too. If anyone wants to take your shirt let him have your coat too. If anyone makes you walk one mile, walk with him two miles' (Matthew 5:38 to 41).

**Misquote:** 'Jealousy is a curse' ... Unrighteous jealousy is sin not a curse. The Lord holds a righteous jealousy over all His children and will protect us vehemently. The Scriptures say unrighteous jealousy leads to the sin of bitterness that will bring a curse. 'His jealousy will blaze against that man and all the curses written in this book will settle upon him' (Deuteronomy 29:20).

**Misquote:** 'The blind leading the blind' ... This gives us a 'picture' of an unlearned person leading another unlearned person astray. Jesus meant something entirely different. He meant to leave the unrepentant spiritually blind alone to lead other unrepentant spiritually blind and together they will end up in hell. 'You hypocrites! ... These (unrepentant religious) people draw near to Me with their mouths and honour Me with their lips but their hearts are far from Me. Uselessly do they worship Me for they teach as doctrines the rules

of men (not God's commandments) ... Leave them alone. They are blind guides and if a (spiritually) blind man leads another (spiritually) blind man both will fall into the pit' (Matthew 15:7, 8 & 14).

**Misquote:** 'Making short work of it' ... This does not mean to finish a nasty job quickly to get it over with. The Scriptures tell us the Lord will make short work of judgement over the nations that come against Israel. 'The Lord will carry out His sentence on the earth and He will make short work of it' (Romans 9:28).

**Misquote:** 'By the way' ... This misquote is taken to mean, 'incidentally', or 'excuse me'. The Scriptures say nothing like that. The Lord was speaking about His commandments and His precepts. 'These words I command you this day will be on your heart. You are to teach them to your children and will talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up' (Deuteronomy 6:6 & 7).

**Misquote:** 'Labour of love' ... This does not mean volunteer work. God is talking to the Hebrew Christians in the early church about the effort they put in to the spreading of the Gospel. 'God is not unjust. He will not forget your work or overlook your labour of love which you have shown for His name's sake in ministering to God's people as you still do' (Hebrews 6:10).

**Misquote:** 'These things are sent to try or test us' ... This quote is actually correct. However, it is meant solely for believers to test their faith, therefore it does not apply to the unsaved as the following verses reveal. 'Understand, the testing of your faith produces endurance' (James 1:3). 'Rejoice, though for a little while you may suffer trials so the testing of your faith, which is more precious than gold which is tested and purified by fire may be found to result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus the Messiah is revealed' (1 Peter 1:6 & 7).

**Misquote:** 'Fight the good fight' ... This does not mean to win a trivial battle against an opponent. That thought absolutely diminishes the true meaning of what the Apostle Paul was saying. This phrase means to fight for righteousness and faith. Paul knew he was about to be murdered because Nero had unjustly sentenced him to death. All over the Roman Empire there was shocking persecution of believers so initially, Paul encouraged the early Christians. "Fight the good fight of the faith. Lay hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you confessed the good confession before many witnesses" (1 Timothy 6:12). Then Paul says he did exactly what he had told the believers to do, "I am about to be sacrificed. The time of my release (death) is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. There is being stored up for me the crown of righteousness" (2 Timothy 4:6 to 8).

**Misquote:** 'Godspeed' ... This means to 'go your way and may God bless you'. The Scriptures warn us not to bid anybody Godspeed if they are false believers (in modern times they are called cults). 'If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine (the doctrine of salvation by faith) do not welcome him into your house or bid him Godspeed or give him any encouragement, for the one who welcomes and encourages him, wishing him Godspeed shares in his evil deeds' (2 John 1:10 & 11).

**Misquote:** 'Turn a blind eye' ... This misquote is used to infer, when 'Mr A' knows 'Mr B' is committing a crime, 'Mr A' turns away and ignores the crime allowing 'Mr B' to continue his activities. That is a complete perversion of the Scripture. The Lord turned a 'blind eye' to the sinful activities of the Gentile nations before Jesus came to bring the Gospel. It was a holy act of patience and mercy on behalf of God. 'Since we are the children of God we are not to suppose God is (an idol) made of gold, silver or stone, designed and engraved by human hands and imagination. God overlooked and turned a blind eye to such ignorance and allowed it to pass but now He expects all people everywhere to repent' (Acts 17:29 & 30). Now that Jesus has come and we have the Gospel, God will no longer turn a blind eye to the sin of idolatry, worshipping idols or bowing to false gods. People like Buddhists and Hindus for example, need to turn away from worshipping their idols, repent, believe the Gospel, be baptised and worship God our Maker (Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:14 & 15; Acts 2:38; Psalm 95:6).

**Misquote:** 'It is better to give than receive' ... Almost everybody, including most Christians think this verse is talking about giving money! That is way off. It is talking about giving assistance to weak, sick believers. The actual Scripture explains it all and shows the misquote for what it is. 'I coveted no man's silver or gold (money) or garments (clothing). We ministered to our own needs ... by working diligently in this manner we must help (assist) the weak, being mindful of the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said it is more blessed to be able to give (assistance) than to receive (or need assistance)' (Acts 20:34 & 35). 'When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the disabled, the lame and the blind (those who need assistance) then you

will be blessed because they have no way of repaying you and you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous' (Luke 14:13 & 14).

**Misquote:** 'Do unto others as you want others to do unto you' ... This verse is quoted a lot but usually taken out of context. We are to treat others kindly just as we all desire to be treated with kindness. 'Whatever you desire others would do for you, do also for them' (Matthew 7:12). 'As you would like people to do for you do exactly so to them' (Luke 6:31)

**Misquote:** 'Make an honest living' ... In an age before unemployment or disability payments, people without an income relied on begging or stealing. Once people became Christians the Apostle Paul told them to stop stealing and work for a living. 'Let the thief steal no more but rather let him work making an honest living with his own hands' (Ephesians 4:28).

**Misquote:** 'Like a lamb to slaughter' ... Too many people use this verse to describe a difficult situation, not realising that to misquote this particular verse is akin to blasphemy. It was our Lord Jesus Who was being mentioned when this verse was written and to take this verse glibly, lightly and out of the context in which it was given, minimises and belittles the intense suffering our Lord went through for us. 'He (Jesus) was oppressed, He was afflicted, He was submissive and opened not His mouth. Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter and like a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth' (Isaiah 53:7; Acts 8:32). Jesus is the Lamb of God (John 1:36). We were bought with the precious blood of Jesus, which is like that of a sacrificial lamb without blemish (1 Peter 1:19). 'I saw in the midst of the throne ... a Lamb standing as though it had been slain' (Revelation 5:6).

**Misquote:** 'Out of the mouths of Babes' ... This was not written to comment on clever children making a clever statement. The Lord was talking about children or new believers praising God. 'Out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants You have established strength because of Your foes, so You might silence the enemy' (Psalm 8:2). When Jesus was on earth the chief priests saw children in the temple praising Jesus and became indignant so Jesus said, "Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise'" (Matthew 21:16). His comment silenced His enemies.

**Misquote:** 'A little bird told me' ... Many people think this verse means they have heard an innocent rumour but will not reveal the source, but this little 'bird' is not innocent but is actually quite sinister (Revelation 18:2). The 'bird' and the 'winged creature' in this verse is a whispering demon that carries news in order to cause strife. 'Do not curse the King (or a leader in government) not even in your thoughts and do not curse the wealthy, not even in your bedroom, for a bird in the air might carry the news, a winged creature will repeat what you said' (Ecclesiastes 10:20).

**Misquote:** 'Seek and you shall find' ... This verse does not mean non-believers will get their own way. It is a promise to believers in Jesus, if they ask, seek and knock, the Lord will eventually answer their prayers even if it takes fifty years. It was a lesson in perseverance. Jesus was teaching people to hold on to what they desire by faith, even when things look hopeless. 'Ask and it will be given to you. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you for everyone who keeps on asking, receives. He who keeps on seeking, finds. He who keeps on knocking, the door will (eventually) be opened' (Matthew 7:7 & 8).

**Misquote:** 'Sweet Dreams!' ... It is actually our sleep that will be sweet. 'When you lie down you will not be afraid, yes you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet' (Proverbs 3:24).

**Misquotes:** 'Naked we came into world and naked we will leave'. 'We cannot take anything with us'... This is correct. 'Naked I was born and naked I will depart' (Job 1:21). 'As we were born so we will go again, naked as we came and we will take away nothing for all our labours' (Ecclesiastes 5:15).

**Misquote:** 'The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away' ... This is true. 'The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord!' (Job 1:21).

**Misquote:** 'A thorn in the flesh' ... This means someone is suffering from an evil attack which God will not remove. 'To keep me from becoming too proud there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of the devil to harass me to keep me from being excessively exalted. Three times I called on the Lord about this and begged it may depart from me but the Lord said to me, "My grace is enough for you for My power is made perfect in your weakness"' (2 Corinthians 12:7 to 9).

**Misquote:** 'Born-again' ... This does not mean to 'turn over a new leaf', nor does it mean a change of location or life-style. This phrase has been misused to the point of extreme. What being truly born-again means is to repent, turn away from our old life of sin, face up to our sin by confessing them to God, then we are to be baptised, filled with the Holy Spirit and walk in an entirely new life with Jesus as our guide and Jesus said we are not to be surprised we are told to do all this before we can enter heaven. "Unless a person is born-again (born anew from above) they cannot ever see the Kingdom of God ... unless a person is born of water (baptised) and of the Holy Spirit, they cannot ever enter the Kingdom of God ... Marvel not at My telling you, you must all be born-again" (John 3:3, 5 & 7).

**Misquote:** 'Scapegoat' ... People think this means one person has been unfairly accused when others are involved in a scandal or a wrongdoing. Scripturally, a scapegoat is not a human but a goat. Part of the Law of Moses was to present a goat to the Lord to make atonement for sin then the scapegoat was set free. 'The priest will take two goats and present them before the Lord ... one as a sin offering ... the other (the scapegoat) may be let go into the wilderness' (Leviticus 16:7 to 10).

**Misquote:** 'Doubting Thomas' ... In our time, a Doubting Thomas is a sceptic but the original Thomas was not. In fact his name was not even Thomas, it was Didymus and he was a twin (John 11:16). This man's nickname was Twin – T'oma – which is spelt in English as Thomas. Jesus had just been crucified and the eleven surviving disciples were thrown into chaos. They had witnessed the miracles Jesus had done, they knew He was the promised Messiah and they were devastated when Jesus was wrongly accused and murdered. Less than a week later, Thomas heard through hearsay his close friend Jesus was still alive. We all know death is permanent so Thomas did not believe the rumour Jesus was alive. Nobody, absolutely nobody there at the time understood how Jesus could possibly have risen from the dead. It was not until Thomas saw Jesus for himself and touched His serious wounds that Thomas could believe Jesus had indeed been resurrected or raised from death. The moment Thomas saw Jesus really was alive he was so thrilled he cried out, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:24 to 29).

**Misquote:** 'We have a 'Judas' in our midst' ... Most people do not know where this name comes from and use it to describe someone like a whistleblower for example, or someone considered untrustworthy. To call someone a 'Judas' is insulting. People often do not realise they are referring to Judas Iscariot, the man who betrayed Jesus. When Judas betrayed Jesus he had no idea his actions would bring about the death of his Friend. When Judas did realise what would happen he tried desperately to undo his mistake but it was too late. In his utter devastation, horror and remorse at the outcome of his actions, Judas suicided. Many people criticise Judas but forget the fact, all the disciples scattered leaving Jesus alone. Peter denied Him three times. Their actions were similar. The only difference between the outcomes was the eleven disciples repented but Judas did not. Had Judas repented he would have been counted among the apostles. The only reason Judas went to hell was because he had never repented in the three years he was with Jesus and all unrepentant sinners end up in hell. He did not go to hell because he suicided as many people think, he went to hell because he was an unrepentant man, indeed Jesus called him a devil and the son of perdition (destruction) (Matthew 27:3 to 10; John 6:70 & 71; John 17:12; Acts 1:25).

**Misquote:** 'All things work together for good' ... This verse is not so much misquoted as it is half-quoted and so the fullness of the whole meaning is lost. This verse does not apply to the unsaved but only to those who love God, are obedient and follow the call of God. We are assured, with God being our partner in our labour and fitting in with His plans and purposes then we know as we work together, things that happen (both good and bad) work for the good of the Kingdom of God. 'We know all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose, for those whom He foreknew He also predestined from the beginning to be moulded into the image of His Son so He might become the Firstborn among many people' (Romans 8:28 & 29). This is not necessarily solely for our personal good, although that can be the case it is more for the good of the Kingdom as a whole. All things, good and bad, work together for the good of the Kingdom not necessarily for one individual. The perfect example of the fulfilment of these verses is the terrible death of Jesus turned out to be good for all of humanity and the Kingdom of God.

**Misquotes:** 'Oh my God!' 'Oh my Lord!' 'Jesus Christ!' ... These phrases, unless spoken in an attitude of respect and prayer, is using Gods' name in vain and that is blasphemy. By saying these phrases, people are calling out the name of God frivolously or lightly, as a profanity, as a falsehood or without purpose or they are using the name of Jesus as a swear word or an exaggerated exclamation, which is the height of blasphemy. This is literally the devil using the mouths of fools to blaspheme God or the holy name of Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God and is our Messiah, our Saviour, the One Who suffered and died for humanity. If anyone dares to take the name of Jesus in vain they will suffer a terrible eternity. The name of Jesus should only ever be

spoken in the awesomeness of the Lord, in the correct attitude with love, respect, prayer, praise and devotion. 'My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord our God. Let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever' (Psalm 145:21). God commands people not to ever speak His name lightly or they will bring judgement down upon their own heads. 'Do not use the name of the Lord your God in vain for the Lord will not hold them guiltless who takes His name in vain' (Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 5:11). 'Let them praise Your great and awesome name. He is Holy!' (Psalm 99:3). 'They speak against You wickedly, Your enemies take Your name in vain!' (Psalm 139:20).

**Misquotes:** 'Stairway to heaven'. 'Jacob's ladder'. 'Jacob's Well' ... A rock band did not invent the phrase 'Stairway to Heaven'. The band's intent was pure blasphemy. It was a dream Jacob, the grandson of Abraham had after he had returned to the land of Israel, then called Canaan. Through Jacob's bloodline Jesus was born and through Jesus we have our only way of salvation and so the land of Israel, through Jesus has become our stairway to heaven for all who believe in Him. 'Jacob dreamed there was a stairway on the earth and the top of it reached to heaven. The holy angels of God were ascending and descending on it. The Lord stood over Jacob and said, "I am the Lord the God of Abraham your grandfather and the God of Isaac. I will give to you and to your descendants the land on which you are lying and your offspring will be as countless as sand and you will spread abroad to the west, the east, the north and the south. By you and your Offspring (Jesus) will all the families of the earth be blessed" ... Jacob awoke from his sleep and he said, "Surely the Lord is in this place ... this is the House of God and is the stairway to heaven!" (Genesis 28:12 to 17). Jacob's Well is a real well Jacob dug out (John 4:6 & 12).

**Misquote:** 'They are a Law unto themselves' ... This has been quoted as having a negative meaning but studying the context in which it was written in the Bible, the Lord actually commends non-believers for the way they obey His righteous Laws even without knowing God. The Laws of God are written on their hearts so they know right from wrong and act accordingly. 'It is not hearing the Law that makes one righteous before God but it is the doers of the Law who will be justified. When Gentiles who do not have the Law (the Bible) do what the Law requires they are a Law to themselves since they do not have the Law. They show the Law is written on their hearts by which their consciences or their sense of right and wrong testifies and their decisions will accuse or defend them' (Romans 2:13 to 15).

**Misquote:** 'Do not blow your own trumpet' ... Jesus said this when He was explaining to the people, helping the needy ought to be done without fanfare or God considers it to be hypocritical. "Whenever you give to the poor do not blow your trumpet as the hypocrites do so they may be praised by men. Truly I tell you, they have their reward in full already" (Matthew 6:2).

**Misquote:** 'Another one bites the dust' ... A rock band did not invent this phrase which they used as pure blasphemy. In this Psalm the Lord was referring to the time from the onset of Jesus' ministry and onwards into the thousand years reign when the believers in Jesus would be filled with peace, but the enemies of God, in other words wicked people, unbelievers, people who are spiritually lost in a spiritual wilderness, would be judged. They would bite or lick the dust. 'In His (Jesus') days the righteous will flourish and peace will abound. Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him and His enemies will lick the dust' (Psalm 72:7 & 9).

**Misquote:** 'He fell on his sword' ... When high profile people make foolish mistakes so serious they have to step down from their position, society says the person fell on their sword or committed political suicide. The reality of this quote was more serious than just stepping down from their position. They literally placed their swords in an upward position then leaned their bodies over the sword so their body weight caused the sword to impale them and the person would die from the self inflicted wounds. 'Saul took a sword and fell on it. When his armour-bearer saw Saul was dead he also fell on his sword and died with him' (1 Samuel 31:4 & 5).

**Misquote:** 'Baptism of fire' ... Christians and non-believers alike use this phrase to describe a terrible ordeal they have suffered. The true meaning is completely the opposite. The baptism in fire is a truly wonderful and awe-inspiring experience. 'John the Baptist said, "I baptise you with water but He (Jesus) Who is mightier than I is coming ... He (Jesus) will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire"' (Luke 3:16). This is the fire of the Holy Spirit and this fire is not an ordeal – it is glorious.

**Misquote:** 'Draw a line in the sand (dirt, ground, earth, dust)' ... Some people misquote the verse where Jesus wrote something in the ground with His finger. We will never know what Jesus wrote but He seemed to shame the people around Him and they walked away but He did not draw a line in the sand as some people think, He actually wrote something. We do not know for certain what He wrote but from what Jesus said we

can only assume He wrote something like, “Let those who are without sin among you throw the first stone.” ‘When they heard it, being convicted by their conscience they went out one by one’ (John 8:6 to 9).

**Misquote:** ‘Jewel in the crown’ ... Israel and her people is the precious jewel in God’s holy crown. “Yahweh their God will save them in that day as the flock of His people for they are like the jewels of a crown lifted on high over His land (Israel)” (Zechariah 9:16).

**Misquote:** ‘Hard labour’ ... Today, these two words are used to describe a penal sentence for a criminal sentenced to twenty years hard labour! The Bible has an entirely different meaning. ‘Jacob and his family travelled from Bethel. There was still some distance to come to Ephrath (Bethlehem) and Rachel travailed (was in terrible pain). She had hard labour. When she was in hard labour the midwife said to her, “Do not be afraid for now you will have another son.” As Rachel’s soul was departing (for she died) she named her baby Benoni (son of my sorrow) but his father Jacob named him Benjamin (son of my right hand). Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (Bethlehem)’ (Genesis 35:16 to 19).

**Misquote:** ‘By the skin of my teeth’ ... Some people think this phrase mean to attain something just in time or by a narrow margin but the full verse reads, “My bones stick to my skin and to my flesh. I have escaped by the skin of my teeth” (Job 19:20). This Scripture was referring to Job’s loss of appetite due to his illness. This verse actually means he was so thin his bones could be seen through his undernourished flesh and skin and he had escaped death by a miracle.

May we all take care to quote the Holy Bible accurately and truthfully as the Lord has asked of us. “How many times must I ask you to speak nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord?” (1 Kings 22:16).

Amen and God bless you.

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