

Sayings Not Found in Scripture

Many sayings have developed throughout the years by a variety of means. Scripture supports the purposes of some of the sayings while contradicting others.

Sayings

- Moderation in all things.
- Once saved, always saved.
- Spare the rod, spoil the child.
- To thine ownself be true.
- Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
- Money is the root of all evil.
- Cleanliness is next to godliness.
- This too shall pass.
- God works in mysterious ways.
- The eye is the window to the soul.
- The lion shall lay down with the lamb.
- Pride comes before the fall.

Miscellaneous

- The Three Wisemen
- The Sinner's Prayer
- Wedding Vows
- The Seven Deadly Sins

The phrase *moderation in all things* is a common extrapolation of Aristotle's Doctrine of the Mean (as presented in his Nicomachean Ethics). His ethic works around finding the mean, or middle ground, between excess and deficiency. Today many think it is a Biblical principle spelled out in scripture. There is however no direct quotation matching this saying. Paul does use a similar statement in 1 Corinthians 9:25 reference a successful athlete: "And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown."

However the word temperate is more accurately translated as "wholly self-controlled."

Once saved, always saved. I'm sorry folks, but no matter how hard you look, or how much you wish it was so, there is no Bible scripture that even implies this saying.

Spare the rod, spoil the child. Despite popular opinion this saying is not in the Bible. The saying, however should not be considered invalid as the concept is there in several verses. Proverbs 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly. Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

Proverbs 23: 13 Do not withhold correction from a child,

For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die.

14 You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and rebuke give wisdom,

But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

To thine ownself be true. When prompting people to follow their conscience on matters, this oft-touted saying is occasionally cited as a Biblical recommendation. In truth, this saying originates in the Shakespearean tragedy *Hamlet*. Polonius, the older counselor of Prince Hamlet's uncle, King Claudius, is in the midst of dispensing advice to the prince when he speaks forth the line: "This above all things: to thine own self be true." How good is this advice? Probably only as good as our conscience is true to God. Ask God in prayer for guidance. Psalm 23:3

3 He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. We often call this the Golden Rule. The Biblical parallel is in Matthew 7:12 Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

The phrase, "Love thy neighbor as thyself," is also close to the saying and is found throughout the Bible. (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 5:43; 19:19; 22:39; Mark 12:31; Romans 13:9; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8; Luke 10:27). James even refers to "Love thy neighbor as thyself" as being "the royal law" because it is the embodiment of all the laws dealing with human relationships.

Money is the root of all evil. This expression stems from the biblical phrase, "For the love of money is the root of all evils" (1 Timothy 6:10). There is a big difference between the two statements. Money is neutral and can be used either for the good or for the bad. Money of itself is not evil, yet the love of it is the root of all kinds of evil.

Cleanliness is next to godliness. The book of Leviticus frequently deals with the issue of cleanliness and impurity so that the children of Israel would be clean as a sign of separation from the surrounding nations. Yet in the New Testament, cleanliness finds mention in relation to the cleansing of the believer's life.

1 John 1:9- If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

2 Corinthians 7:1 *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

James 4: 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded.

Ephesians 5:26-27 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

I will continue this article next week. Arne

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