

Sayings Not Found in Scripture II

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

- 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.

Miscellaneous

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

This too shall pass. Trials and difficult circumstances are difficult to bear and one comfort that many have come to share with friends having difficult times is the saying: “This too shall pass.” There are many possible origins for this saying, however it is not in the Bible. We can find comfort in the knowledge that these earthly trials will eventually pass away and that should be the focus of our thoughts concerning the saying. Romans 5 reminds the believer that suffering produces hope for the kingdom of God; if we simply take heart in the temporary end of a given earthly trial, we are finding comfort in the wrong thing.

God works in mysterious ways. This saying's origin is unknown, but it is not found in the scriptures. The phrase may have come from William Cowper's hymn “God Moves in a Mysterious Way.” The fact is God does work in ways which are curious and beyond the measure of our limited experience and knowledge. Deuteronomy 29:29 tells us: *The secret things belong to the Lord our God.* The final chapters of Job present God's reprimand of Job wherein He asks Job how he could possibly understand or judge the reasons for God's actions (Job being so far removed from God in power, wisdom, and longevity).

Maybe the biggest mystery is revealed to us in Romans 8:28— *And we know that all things work together for the good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. Though we may not understand the purpose of our circumstances in God's plan, we are assured that every detail will work for the benefit of the redeemed.*

The Eye is the Window to the Soul. The Bible does not speak of the eye as being a window to the soul, however it does represent the eye as being a lamp of the body.

Matthew 6:22— *The eye is the lamp of the body; so that if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.*
Luke 11:34— *The eye is the lamp of your body; when your eye is clear, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is bad, your body also is full of darkness.*

The lion shall lay down with the lamb. This is a popularly misquoted passage from Scripture. From filtering into pop culture to influencing Christian kitsch, the image of a lamb sweetly nestled into the side of a powerful lion is one that resonates. So where did this image come from? The image has developed from images of other animals paired together in Isaiah 11:6 and 65:25. Lambs and lions are both mentioned in these passages, but the lion is paired with an ox in one and a fatten calf in the other, while the lamb is paired with the wolf in both of them. There is the possibility this imagery comes from Revelation 5 which uses lion and lamb imagery.

The Three Wisemen Here we go rocking the denominational boat! Matthew is the only book of the gospels that mention the magi. Maybe the number three appears because three types of gifts are mentioned, or maybe because of people taking songs as gospel. In 1857 Henry Hopkins Jr. wrote the song *We Three Kings*. That being said I'm sure today many believe in the words of the newer song *The Little Drummer Boy*.

The Sinner's Prayer. Although this isn't a saying it is a common erroneous belief

That many search to find words for in the Bible. The modern usage of the Sinner's Prayer originates in the 19th century and was popularized by the experience oriented evangelistic style of Charles Finney. Scriptures however

tells men should believe, repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins.

Wedding Vows. Wedding vows are not actually something that is listed in the bible. Most wedding type vows that are made have a basis in Ephesians 5:22 where Paul describes a married couples responsibilities toward each other.

The Seven Deadly Sins. Gluttony, greed, sloth, lust, vanity, envy, wrath are listed as the seven deadly sins. These are sins which scripture condemns, but they are not found in scripture in such a listing. The seven sins originated in the writings of medieval theologians and have since been remarked upon by Pope Gregory the Great, Thomas Aquinas, Geoffrey Chaucer, and John Milton. Proverbs 6:16-19 lists seven things the Lord hates, but the Lord hates all sin and all sin is deadly if it isn't repented of and the will of God obeyed.

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