

## Famous Expressions

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by Wayne Goff

Growing up in various places and circumstances left me with quite an interesting compilation of ideas, habits, and sayings. Family members often quoted familiar sayings which I did not understand. As an adult, I began trying to figure out exactly what they meant, or where they came from, or if they were biblically-based. I enjoy studying unusual words, too.

Here are a few sayings which are actually found in the Bible:

1. ***"...I have escaped by the skin of my teeth,"*** Job 19:20.
2. ***"... as a drop in the bucket..."*** Isaiah 40:15.
3. ***"Answer a fool according to his folly..."*** Proverbs 26:5.
4. ***"...For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks"*** Matthew 12:34.
5. ***"Train up a child in the way he should go..."*** Proverbs 22:6.
6. ***"Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, ..."*** Ecclesiastes 12:1.
7. ***"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them..."*** Matthew 7:12.
8. ***"It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house"*** Proverbs 21:9, KJV.

Now here are some saying which are not found in the Bible, but which sometimes people think are there:

1. "Cleanliness is next to godliness."
2. "Three wise men."
3. "Every tub shall set on its own bottom."
4. "Beauty is only skin deep."
5. "Spare the rod and spoil the child."
6. "Heaven helps those who help themselves."
7. "No rest for the wicked."
8. "Men shall grow wiser and weaker."

Now this is not to say that the idea is not taught in the Bible. Sometimes the popular saying is pointing people to a general truth. For example, "cleanliness is next to godliness" can be taken to be true for a variety of reasons. First, God is a God of order and design. So the Christian who is following God's Word is going to have a disciplined life with orderliness, if it depends on him. Second, godliness requires moral cleanliness, so one could take that to be the meaning. This truth is taught abundantly in the Bible. So while a popular saying may not be in the Bible, the idea may be there. But one should study the Bible carefully, diligently to see if that is the case.

So for those who like a challenge, let me give you one. Find the **one verse** in the Bible (KJV or NKJV) which has every letter in the alphabet except the letter "J." Let me give you a little hint: Where would you find a verse with the letters X, Y, and Z in it? [The answer will appear in next week's bulletin.] Now this exercise won't make you a better person, but if it will help you read your Bible a little bit more, then we will have accomplished our purpose.

And if you are looking for a bit of wisdom tucked in a short saying, then read Proverbs, especially chapters 10 and following. There are many, many sayings that will serve you well, if you will read them, think about them, and then live their wisdom in your life.

Let me close with a couple of Bible facts:

- ✓ The Bible was divided into chapters in 1250
- ✓ The New Testament was divided into verses in 1551
- ✓ The whole Bible, divided into chapters & verses, first appeared in 1560 in what we call the Geneva Bible
- ✓ The Bible will be your judge in the last day, Revelation 20:12; John 12:48