

Mis-quoted 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).

The Holy Bible says 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 mis-quoting or mis-using scripture, and the scriptures usually mean something entirely different to what people are trying to say when they repeat these quotes. It is bad enough when Christians mis-quote the scriptures, but it is sinful the way unbelievers twist the scriptures, diminishing the holiness of God's precious Word to that of a mere book. The Bible is much more than just a book. It is the written spiritual life given to us; it is God's manual for us to follow. The Lord Jesus Himself is the Word of God (Revelation 19:13), and when we glibly mis-quote the words in the Bible, we are mis-quoting God Himself, because every word is God-breathed. Every time people do that, they are hoarding up judgement upon themselves. 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). If the knowledge of that is not enough to make people think twice before they minimise the words spoken by God, then they will be in deep trouble on Judgement Day. These Bible quotes were written thousands of years ago.

Mis-quotes: '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).

Mis-quotes: '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 mean the same thing said in different ways. **God says:** '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 he sows' (Galatians 6:7).

Mis-quote: 'Birds of a feather flock together'. 'Every winged bird according to its kind' ... People think this verse means that people of the same ilk tend to gather together. That is nothing like what the scripture means. **God says:** '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.

Mis-used quote: '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. **God says:** '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).

Mis-quote: 'She is making a rod for her own back' ... The meaning of this verse 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. **God says:** '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.

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

Mis-quote: '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. **God says:** '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). **Jesus said:** 'Let your 'yes' be 'yes'; and let your 'no' be 'no'; anything more than that comes from the devil' (Matthew 5:37).

Mis-quote: 'He cut off his nose to spite his face' ... This does not quite mean somebody has done something so incredibly 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. **God says:** 'The churning of milk brings forth butter; the wringing of the nose brings blood; so the forcing of wrath brings strife' (Proverbs 30:33).

Mis-quotes: 'He is his own worst enemy'. 'Honour among thieves' ... The first mis-quote means a person continually does stupid things that bring problems upon themselves. The second mis-quote 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. **God says:** 'Whoever is an accomplice of a thief is an enemy of his own soul; he falls under the same curse but dares not disclose anything' (Proverbs 29:24).

Mis-quote: '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. **God says:** '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).

Mis-quote: 'Sharp as a two-edged sword' ... This Bible quote has two completely opposite meanings. The Word of God itself is a two-edged sword. **God says:** '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 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). **God warns:** '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; her steps lead straight to hell' (Proverbs 5:3 to 5).

Mis-quote: '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. **God says:** '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).

Mis-quote: 'Eat, drink and be merry' ... This Bible quote has both positive and negative connotations. It can mean blessing or a negative, bad attitude. Israel was being obedient to the Lord and was blessed. **God said:** '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; '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). **God warns** us about having a 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).

Mis-quote: 'Pride comes before a fall' ... If we are snobbish, overly proud and look down on other people, it is likely that we will be brought down. **God says:** 'Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall' (Proverbs 16:18).

Mis-quote: 'Money is the root of all evil' ... That is a serious mis-quote and is very wrong! Money is not the problem – it is the love of money that is the problem. **God says:** '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).

Mis-quotes: 'The writing is on the wall'. 'Weighed things up'. 'Checks and balances'. 'His days are numbered' ... All four mis-quotes 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 and had stolen 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 that 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 that God had numbered the days of Belshazzar's kingship and brought them to an end. He was 'weighed up in the balances' (checked), and was found wanting, then he died during the night. (Daniel 5:1 to 31).

Mis-quote: 'Old wine; new bottles' ... This mis-quote is taken to mean something entirely different to what **Jesus said**. 'No one puts new wine in an old wineskin, for the skin will burst and the wine, 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).

Mis-quote: 'She's the salt of the earth' ... People often mis-quote this scripture when they are trying to acknowledge good works done by a religious person 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 Christians must continually represent the very nature of God, because if they don't, they will be 'thrown out', or sent to hell.

Mis-quote: 'Don't hide your light under a bushel' ... This mis-quote 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 that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father Who is in heaven' (Matthew 5:14 to 16). This means that Christians need to live in such a Godly way, their lives bring glory to God.

Mis-quotes; '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 mis-quotes 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).

Mis-quote: '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 that unrighteous jealousy leads to the sin of bitterness that will bring a curse. **God says:** 'His jealousy will blaze against that man and all the curses that are written in this book shall settle upon him' (Deuteronomy 29:20).

Mis-quote: 'The blind leading the blind' ... This gives us a 'picture' of an unlearned person leading another unlearned person astray. Jesus meant something entirely different; to leave the unrepentant spiritually blind

alone to lead other unrepentant spiritually blind, and together they will end up in hell. **Jesus said:** 'You hypocrites! ... These people (the unrepentant religious leaders) 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 blind man leads a blind man (an unrepentant person), both will fall into the pit' (Matthew 15:7, 8 & 14).

Mis-quote: 'Making short work of it' ... This does not mean to finish a nasty job quickly; to 'get it over with'. The scriptures tell us that the Lord will make short work of judgement over the nations that come against Israel. **God says:** 'For the Lord will carry out His sentence upon the earth, and He will make short work of it' (Romans 9:28).

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

Mis-quote: '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 said:** '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).

Mis-used quote: '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. **God says:** 'Understand that the testing of your faith produces endurance' (James 1:3). 'Rejoice, though for a little while you may suffer trials, so that 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).

Mis-quote: 'Fight the good fight' ... This does not mean to win a trivial battle against an opponent, such as a difficult neighbour, for example. That thought absolutely diminishes the true meaning of what the Apostle Paul was saying. Paul knew he was about to be murdered because Nero had unjustly sentenced him to death. There was shocking persecution of believers taking place all over the Roman Empire, so first, 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).

Mis-quote: '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). **God says:** '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).

Mis-quote: 'Turn a blind eye' ... This mis-quote is used to infer, that 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' or a wink, 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. **God said:** 'Since we are the children of God, we are not to suppose that God is made of gold, silver or stone, designed and engraved by human hands and imagination. God overlooked, winked, 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. People who worship idols need to repent. 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).

Mis-quote: 'It is better to give than receive' ... Almost everybody, including most Christians think this verse is talking about giving money! That is way off the track, because Paul said he did not ask for money. It is talking about giving assistance to weak, sick believers. The actual scripture explains it all, and shows the

mis-quote for what it is. **God says:** 'I coveted no man's silver or gold (money) or garments (clothing). You know that these hands (Paul's) ministered to my own needs and those who were with me, so in everything I have shown you by example, 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 that it is more blessed to be able to give (assistance) than to receive (or need assistance)' (Acts 20:34 & 35). **Jesus said:** '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 just' (Luke 14:13 & 14).

Mis-quote: '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. **Jesus said:** 'Whatever you desire that 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)

Mis-quote: '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. **God says:** 'Let the thief steal no more, but rather let him work, making an honest living with his own hands' (Ephesians 4:28).

Mis-quote: 'Like a lamb to slaughter' ... Too many people use this verse to describe a difficult situation, not realising that to mis-quote 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. **God said:** '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, 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).

Mis-quote: '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. **God said:** 'Out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants You have established strength because of Your foes, so that 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.

Mis-quote: '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. **God said:** 'Don't curse the King, not even in your thoughts; and don't 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).

Mis-quote: 'Seek and you shall find' ... This verse does not mean job seekers will find employment through a specific agency. It is a promise to believers in Jesus, that 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. If that desire happens to be employment, then we need to hold on to that hope, but to take this verse out of context for an advertisement for an employment agency, as it has been, is akin to blasphemy. **Jesus said:** '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 be opened' (Matthew 7:7 & 8).

Mis-quote: 'Sweet Dreams!' ... It is actually our sleep that will be sweet. **God said:** 'When you lie down you will not be afraid; yes, you will lie down and your sleep shall be sweet' (Proverbs 3:24).

Mis-used quotes: 'Naked we came into world and naked we will leave'. 'We can't take anything with us'... This is correct. **The scriptures say:** 'Naked I was born, and naked shall I 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).

Mis-used quote: 'The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away' ... This is true. **God says:** The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord!' (Job 1:21).

Mis-quote: 'A thorn in the flesh' ... This means someone is suffering from an evil attack which God will not remove. **God says:** '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 upon the Lord about this and begged that 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).

Mis-quote: '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 mis-used 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 that we are told to do all this before we can enter heaven. **Jesus said:** "I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that 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 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 3:1 to 8).

Mis-used quote: '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. **God said:** 'The priest shall 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).

Mis-quote: '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, that his close friend Jesus was still alive. We all know that death is permanent, so Thomas did not believe the rumour that Jesus was alive. Nobody, absolutely nobody there at the time understood how Jesus could possibly have risen from the dead. It wasn't until Thomas saw Jesus for himself and touched His serious wounds, that Thomas could believe that Jesus had indeed been raised from death. The moment Thomas saw that Jesus really was alive, he was so thrilled, he cried out, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:24 to 29).

Mis-quote: '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; someone considered untrustworthy. To call someone a 'Judas' is insulting. People often do not realise they are referring to the man who betrayed Jesus; Judas Iscariot. 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 that all the disciples scattered, leaving Jesus alone. Peter denied Him three times. Their actions were similar. The only difference between the outcomes was that 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).

Mis-quote: 'All things work together for good' ... This verse is not so much mis-quoted as it is half-quoted, and so the fullness of the whole meaning is lost. Christians tend to look at these verses very selfishly. 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, that with God being our partner in our labour, and fitting in with His plans and purposes, then we know that as we work together, things that happen (both good and bad) works for the good of the Kingdom of God. **God said:** 'We know that 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, that 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. For one example, there was an older couple, faithful and devoted to the Lord, who had several children. During a ferry ride there was a disaster, the ferry sank and all of their children died. Imagine how that couple felt. How could that be deemed to be for their good? After that incident they moved to Israel and had one more daughter. They opened a children's home and after the deaths of the parents several years later, that one daughter continued to take in children and help families. That daughter grew old and died, but the work began by her parents still continues to this day. That is what this scripture means. All things, good and bad, work together for the good of the Kingdom, not necessarily for one individual.

Mis-used quote: 'Oh my God!' 'Oh my Lord!' ... This phrase, unless spoken in an attitude of respect and prayer, it is using Gods' name in vain and that is blasphemy. By saying this we are calling out the name of God frivolously; that is speaking of it lightly, as a profanity, as a falsehood or without purpose. God commands us not to ever do that or we will bring judgement down upon our own heads. **God says:** '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). 'They speak against You wickedly, Your enemies take Your name in vain!' (Psalm 139:20). Didymus got it right when he called out the name of the Lord with pure joy; 'My Lord and my God' (John 20:28).

Mis-quote: Stairway to heaven. Jacob's ladder ... A rock band did not invent this phrase, it was a dream that 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's dream:** 'He dreamed that there was a stairway on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood over him (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 shall be as countless as sand, and you shall spread abroad to the west and the east and the north and the south; and by you and your Offspring (Jesus), shall 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). We and our families can be blessed by accepting Jesus; our Jewish Messiah, born in Israel. Salvation has come from the Jews (John 4:22).

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

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

Mis-quote: 'Another one bites the dust' ... In this Psalm, the Lord was referring to the time from the onset of Jesus' ministry, and onwards into the thousands 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. **God said:** 'In His (Jesus') days shall the righteous flourish and peace abound. Those who dwell in the wilderness shall bow before Him and His enemies shall lick the dust' (Psalm 72:7 & 9).

Mis-quote: 'He fell on his sword' ... When high profile people make foolish mistakes; mistakes so serious they have to step down from their position, society says the person fell on their sword, or basically commit 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 said to his armour-bearer, "Draw your sword and thrust me through, lest these pagans come and thrust me

through and abuse and make sport of me.” But his armour-bearer would not for he was terrified. So Saul took a sword and fell upon it. When his armour-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he likewise fell upon his sword and died with him’ (1 Samuel 31:4 & 5; 1 Chronicles 10:4 & 5).

Mis-quote: ‘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. It fills our spiritual ‘bellies’ and makes us want to hug the Lord with all our might. **The scriptures say:** ‘John the Baptist said, “I baptise you with water; but He Who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of Whose sandals I am not fit to untie. 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 and ordeal – it is glorious.

May we all take care to quote the Holy Bible accurately.

Amen and God bless you.

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