

# ***Common Misconceptions***

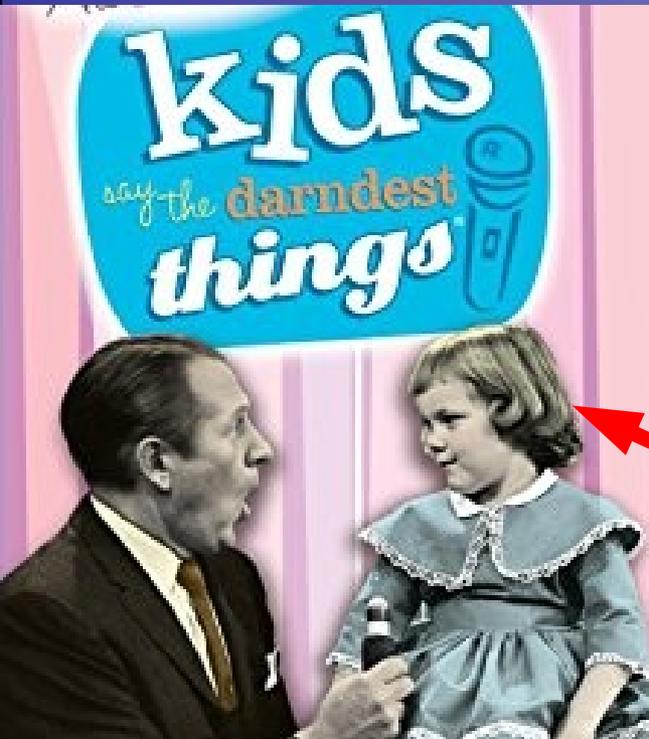


# Common Misconceptions

- *Tithing*
- *Cultural Depictions*
- *Beloved Biblical Wisdom (part 2)*

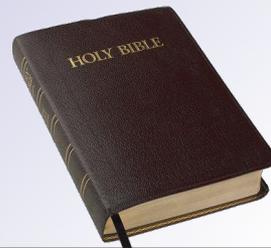
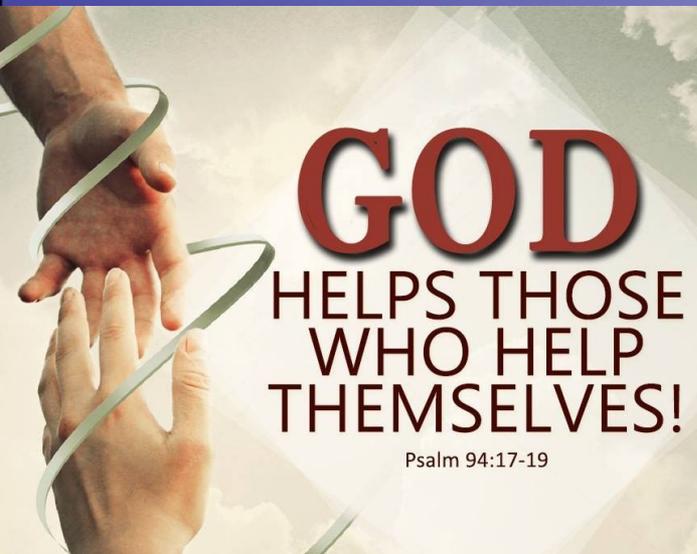
**T** or **F** The phrase, “Out of the mouths of babes” is Biblical

- It's straight out of Psalm 8—  
“O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.” (Psalm 8:1-2, KJV)
- What was David saying here?
- But how do most people usually use this phrase today?



# ***Beloved Biblical Wisdom***

- There are *tons* of sayings or concepts that are commonly misattributed to the Bible
  - So let's keep looking at how many things we can correctly attribute—which of these are Biblical??
- Y or **N** “God helps those who help themselves.”
  - The earliest recording of this saying is actually from Aesop's fable, “Hercules and the Waggoner” (from the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC)  
(A man's wagon got stuck in a muddy road, so he prayed for Hercules to help. Hercules appeared and said, “Get up and put your shoulder to the wheel!” The moral given by Aesop was “The gods help them who help themselves.”)  
(so maybe this isn't the best aphorism for Christians to co-op for Christianity)

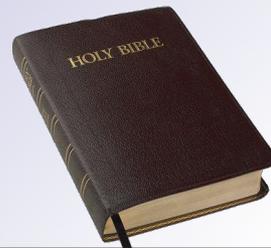
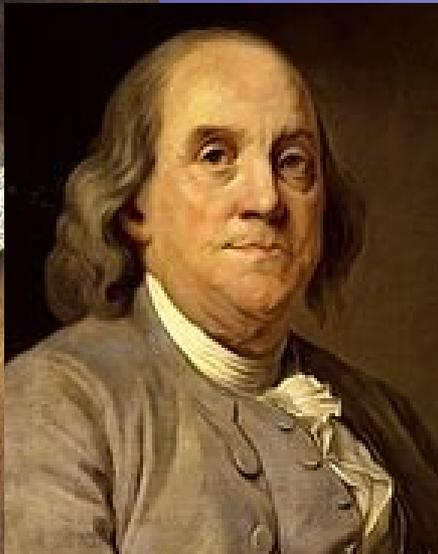


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Y or **N** “God helps those who help themselves.”

- The earliest recording of this saying is actually from Aesop's fable, “Hercules and the Waggoner”
- It was brought into English (and Christianized) by British politician Algernon Sydney in his 1680 book, *Discourses Concerning Government*
  - But it was popularized by Ben Franklin in 1757 in his famous *Poor Richard's Almanack* (the same book from which we get sayings such as “Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead” and “The way to see by faith is to shut the eye of reason”) (how might a Deist like Franklin tend to like to apply this aphorism?)



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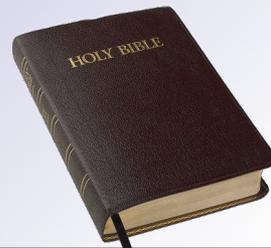
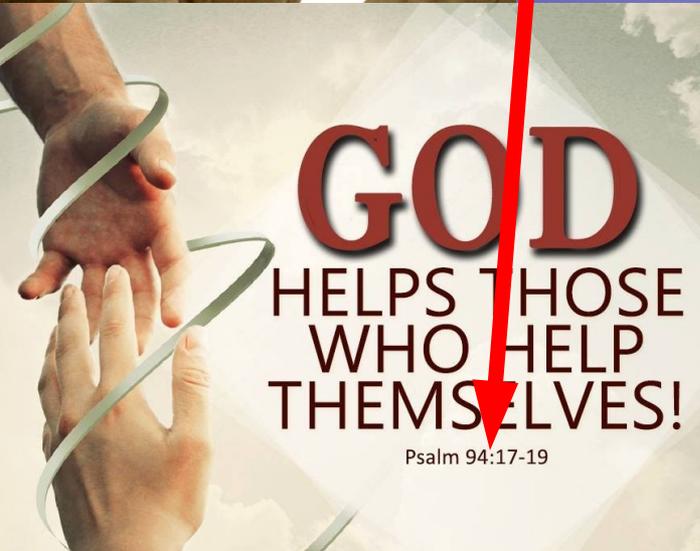
Y or **N** “God helps those who help themselves.”

“God helps those who cannot help themselves.”

- C.H. Spurgeon



- The earliest recording of this saying is actually from Aesop's fable, “Hercules and the Waggoner”
- It was brought into English (and Christianized) by British politician Algernon Sydney
- Incidentally, what *does* Psalm 94:17-19 say?
  - Would you agree with preacher C.H. Spurgeon that, ultimately, “God helps those who cannot help themselves”?
  - What kinds of very wrong applications can people draw from this misconception of Scripture?



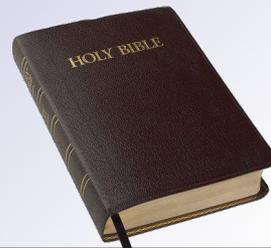
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Y or **N** “You needn't worry about your reward. If money is all that you love, then that is what you will receive.”

- No, that's from the movie *Star Wars*, when Princess Leia is chewing out Han Solo for being greedy
  - But then again, what does Jesus say about doing things specifically for their earthly rewards in verses like Matthew 6:5?

(NOTE: There was no picture that I could put over here to exemplify how we do this without offending as many people as I would help by it—and God knows, I found *lots* of candidates)



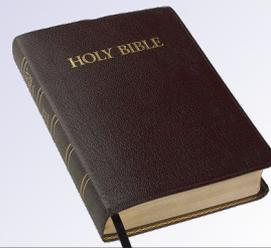
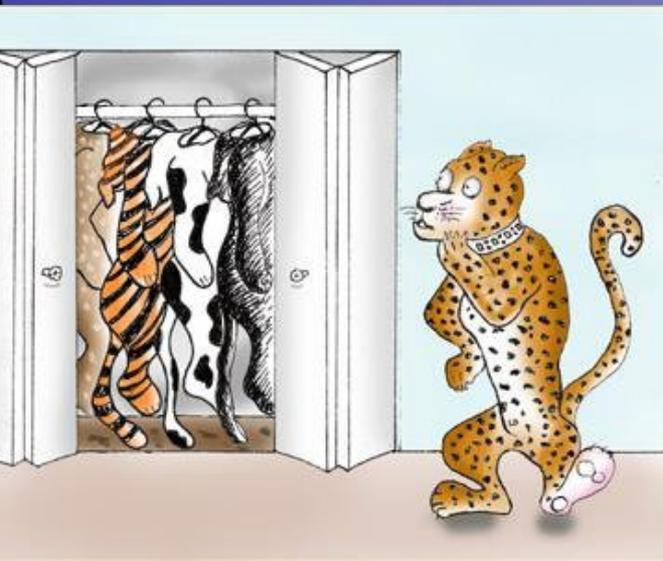
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**Y** or N “A leopard can't change his spots.”  
*-ish*

- Well, it's at least a statement form of the question posed in Jeremiah 13:23—  
“If you ask yourself, 'Why has this happened to me?'—it is because of your many sins that your skirts have been torn off and your body mistreated. Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil. I will scatter you like chaff driven by the desert wind...”  
(Jeremiah 13:22-24, NIV)

(NOTE: Neither the Ethiopian nor the leopard is doing anything wrong or bad here—they're just who and what they are, and can't change that—so what the spiritual application(s) can you make of God's point here in Jeremiah 13:23?)



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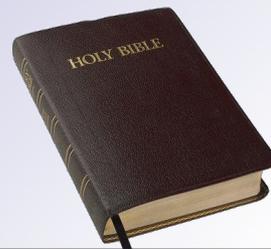
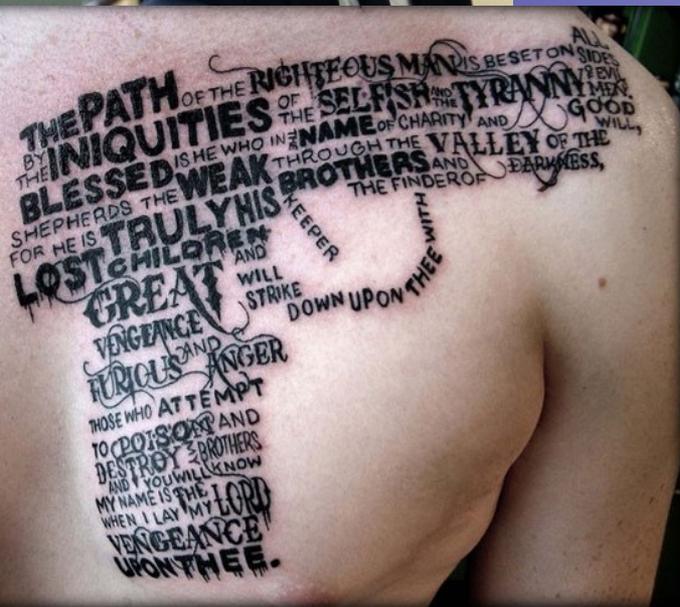
Y or **N** “The path of the righteous man is beset on all sides by the inequities of the selfish and the tyranny of evil men.”



- No, this is actually from the 1994 movie *Pulp Fiction* when Samuel L. Jackson's character claims to quote from Ezekiel 25:17—

“The path of the righteous man is beset on all sides by the inequities of the selfish and the tyranny of evil men. Blessed is he who, in the name of charity and good will, shepherds the weak through the valley of the darkness. For he is truly his brother's keeper and the finder of lost children. And I will strike down upon thee with great vengeance and furious anger those who attempt to poison and destroy my brothers. And you will know I am the Lord when I lay my vengeance upon you.”

(NOTE: People take this very seriously)



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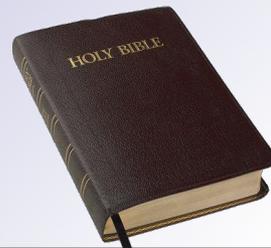
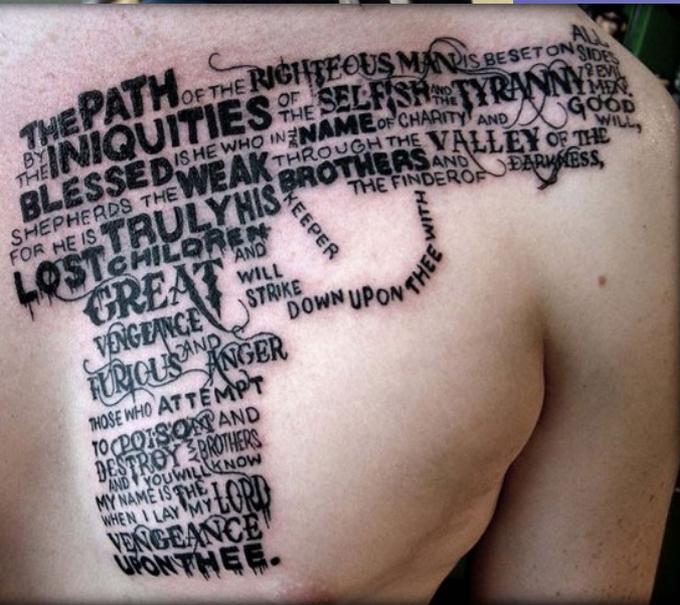
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  - What Ezekiel *actually* wrote was still fairly intense—

“I will carry out great vengeance on them and punish them in my wrath. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I take vengeance on them...”

(so... maybe get that tattoo changed...)



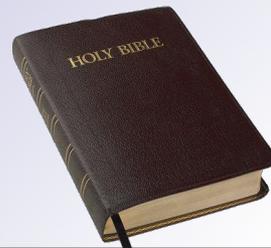
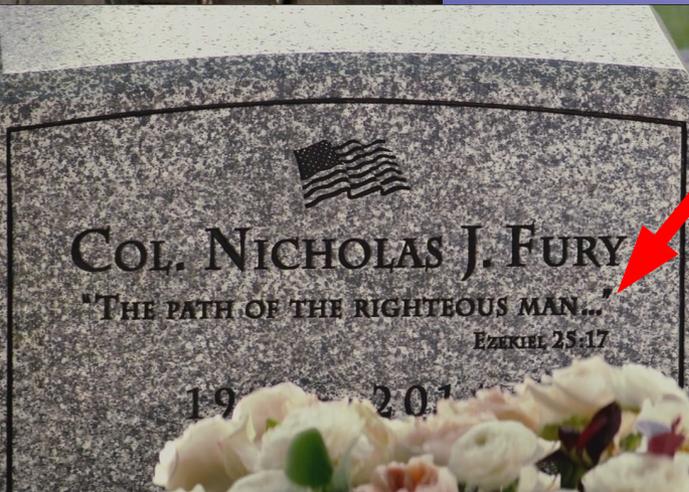
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  - FYI—This is why the Marvel movies made it into something of an inside joke when they carved the reference onto the tombstone of Samuel L. Jackson's character in the franchise



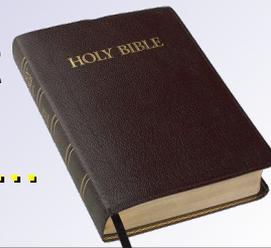
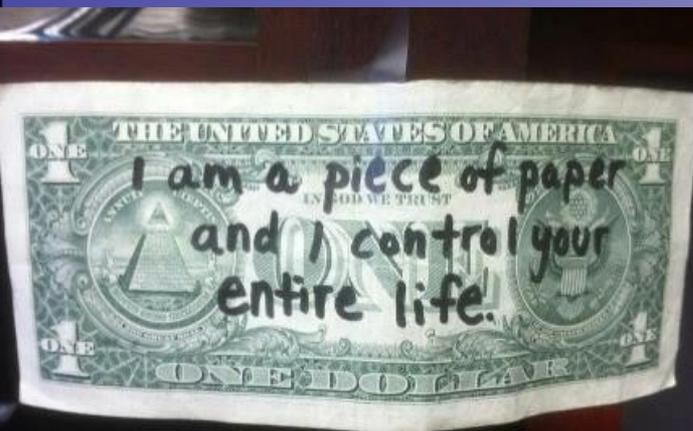
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- Again, this is a direct quote from 1 Timothy 6:10, but it truncates the verse in a crucially dangerous manner—  
“If we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For *the love of* money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs...” (1 Timothy 6:8-10, NIV)

- Remember that “People aren't afraid of things. They're afraid of their *ideas about* things”—and in the same way, physical wealth isn't sinful, but our *greed for* wealth is
- Greed—dissatisfaction with our present state leading to a lust to *change* that present state—inspires all kinds of sins...  
... but *that ain't* the *money's* fault...



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- How does this classic oversimplification often lead to wrong-headed applications—and how does reading what the Bible *actually* says make a difference?

