

Chimney Corner Scriptures By Bobby K. Thompson

As the story was told, a good old lady was telling of some of her problems and how she managed them. She said, "Well, you know the Bible says 'grin and bear it.'" Some one in her presence asked her just where the Bible said such a thing and she replied, "I do not rightly know, but I think it is in Paul's letter to the Deuteronomite!" We may consider this as a far fetched case, but really it is not! We should never be surprised at the sayings which are quoted as being from the Bible when actually they are not. People are still gullible when it suits them, and when it will bring them comfort. They launch toward eternity on "scriptures" which they have never studied or examined. Why the title "Chimney Corner Scriptures"? All my life, I have heard this phrase being used. I understand it to refer to the olden days when folks used to sit around the fire place and discuss sayings and their meanings which they believed to be from the Bible. Rather than examining the scriptures found in the Bible, they accepted sayings as being in the Bible, and these sayings became known as "Chimney Corner Scriptures". As time went on, people handed these sayings down as bonafide scriptures found in the Bible. I do not have a copy before me, but I remember several years ago that the Nelson Publishing Company produced the Royal Bible, a KJV translation of the Bible, which contained a listing of "Chimney Corner Scriptures". The Following Quotations Are "Chimney Corner Scriptures":

An honest confession is good for the soul. I have heard this all my life, but the statement is not found in the Bible. It does contain some truth in the main, but the statement is not a scripture given by the inspiration of God. Confession is good, and we are taught to do so when it is needed. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1John 1:9). I am not sure that one is to confess everything that is in the soul or that has been done in the past. Such things may be wrong and hurtful to others! The things which need confessing are to be confessed to the one wronged. To confess faults one to another when we have sinned against one another is good for the soul. "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

Money is the root of all evil. The Bible says something about the "root of evil" and "money", but the quotation itself is not true. It is not money which is the root of evil, but the love of it. "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1Tim. 6:10). There is a great deal of difference in money being the "root of all evil" and "the love of money being the root of all evil". There is the possibility of one loving money, when there is not the possession of it. Other versions render the phrase: "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil". I can't help but feel that this is a better translation than in the King James Version. The love of money truly produces much evil, but think about the love and participation in other sins such as illicit sex! Sin after sin can be traced to the involvement in such, or else I am entirely too naïve to know what exists.

God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to behold. Have you heard this quoted as coming from the Bible? I can recall hearing an elder quote it and apply it to a

particular situation which the church was facing. Where is it found in any of the 66 books constituting the oracles of God? We certainly recognize that some of the ways of God are unknown to us and may be classified as secret things, but the saying itself is not in the Bible. "And the secret things belong unto the Lord our God but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever that we may do all the words of this law" (Deut. 29:29). This old saying may have come from the false notion that God saves the sinner in some strange, mysterious, better-felt-than-told experience. The fact that God has stooped to save man and has provided salvation through Jesus is a wonder indeed, but it does not come in some mysterious, incomprehensible way. Generally, those who use this phrase have very little concept of the simplicity of the gospel of Christ, and what it requires to be saved. (Rom. 1:16-17; Mark 16:15-16).

We are prone to sin as sparks are to fly upward. "Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward" (Job 5:7). These are the words of Eliphaz speaking of troubles and afflictions. There is no scripture in the Bible which speaks of man being prone to sin as sparks are to fly upward. This quote has no doubt brought comfort to many sinners. The idea is from the old Calvinistic concept of inborn sin and total depravity, with the lingering notion that it is natural for man to sin. Man is not born with any proneness to sin, or with a nature which cannot do otherwise. Man does sin and the more he sins, the more prone he is to do it, but he does not have to do it, and he is not born with a nature which cannot do otherwise. So often these sayings are cleverly laden with erroneous ideas which are hard to detect, but are most dangerous in their effects. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die, The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him" (Ez. 18:20).

Finding Fault

"Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault" (Mark 7:2). Let us suppose I am looking for a field of corn to buy. I travel around seeking for a field which contains good corn. Finally, I see a field which strikes my fancy. The owner says that he will sell it. I then enter the field to see if the corn suits me. As I pass down the rows, the stalks are tall and strong. Almost every stalk has two massive ears hanging from it. However, I pay them little attention. I am looking for something else. Finally, I find it. Over in a low wet corner I find a scrawny little stalk with one little nubbin on it. I pull up the stalk, nubbin and all. I take it to the owner and say, "This is very poor corn. Just look at that nubbin!"

Anyone can easily see that I wasn't being fair. I wasn't really looking to see what the field of corn was like. I was just trying to find fault with it. It would seem that I was not really interested in buying the field. I was just looking for the nubbin, and in my search for the nubbin, I overlooked all of the good corn. There is an old proverb which says, "He who is looking for faults in his brethren will surely find them." (From Gospel Messenger)

Little Church on the Hill
Written by Judy Snider

The little church on the hill,
Oh, how I love to go there still.
Where they sing and pray
On every Lord's day
As the little church on the hill.

In that little church on the hill,
Christians assemble to do God's will
As scripture is taught
On how salvation was bought
For that little church on the hill.

With that little church on the hill
Comes a family who tries to instill
The blessings of love and laughter
Along with the hope of life ever after
With that little church on the hill.

The growth of that little church on the hill
Is an effort of those who will
Reach out to teach
And travel to preach
For the Lord of that little church on the hill.

(We know that the 'church' is not the building, but those who gather inside to worship the Lord. Please take this in the manner it was meant to be.)