

Unbiblical Statements

Introduction. The second greatest gift (the first is Jesus Christ) that God gave mankind was the Holy Bible because the Bible is literally God communicating Himself to mankind in written word. The Bible was inspired and authored by the Holy Spirit of God using human instruments in the original languages of Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic. It is without error and fault.

Anything and everything that we know about God comes from these Scriptures, and they contain the totality of what we need to know about becoming a Christian, and everything we need to know about living faithfully.

However, there are many statements that Jesus-loving, church-going, Bible believers say that are completely unbiblical. How does this happen? We may hear someone quote an expression that sounds nice, and we'll begin repeating it as though it's biblical truth without ever researching it. Several of these unbiblical statements have gained enough traction that many people believe they're actually Bible verses. Not only are the statements unbiblical; some of them teach the opposite of what the Bible teaches. Let's take a look at several that Bible-loving people tend to believe.

I. "God Helps Those Who Help Themselves"

- A. This statement is actually anti-gospel. Self-reliance and self-righteousness actually gets in the way of the work of God.
- B. Jesus saves those who die to themselves (Matthew 16:24-28; Galatians 5:24) and then faithfully follow the risen Savior until death (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

II. "God Wants Me to Be Happy"

- A. It's a common belief that God exists to be our "personal genie" waiting to give us our every wish. It's amazing how we'll justify our sin by saying, "God just wants me to be happy."
- B. Happiness is tied to feelings and emotions that are often based on circumstances, and those change all the time. God wants us to trust and obey Him. That is what will make us happy (Romans 5:1-3; 2 Corinthians 7:16; Philippians 4:4; cp. Acts 5:41; 8:39; 16:34).

III. "We're All God's Children"

- A. Although God has created everyone, not everyone relationally belongs to Him. Only those who have believed in Jesus Christ, repented of sin, and washed their sins away in baptism can claim God as their Father.
- B. Peter attested to the working of the Godhead in our salvation (1 Peter 1:1-2). Moreover, the Spirit attests in the New Testament about our salvation (Romans 8:15b-16). However, those who aren't saved actually belong to Satan (Ephesians 2:1-2; 1 John 3:10).

IV. "Cleanliness Is Next to Godliness"

- A. The people around you may appreciate you staying clean, but this isn't Scripture. Parents may use this unbiblical statement to motivate their kids to clean their rooms.

- B. The Bible actually doesn't address personal hygiene directly (cp. Matthew 23:25-28; John 13:10). However, it does use the metaphor of cleanliness multiple times to address our cleansing from sin (Psalm 51:7, 10; Proverbs 20:9; Isaiah 1:16).

V. "God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle"

- A. Actually, most of life is more than we can handle. The point of living in a sinful world is not for us to try really hard to carry our heavy burden, but rather surrender to and trust in God — that's what faith's all about.
- B. Nothing is more than Jesus can handle (Matthew 11:28; cp. 2 Corinthians 1:8-9; 3:5). He gives us, through the agency of the Word, the instructions to make sense of everything that happens to us in life.

VI. "We All Worship the Same God"

- A. Yes, there's only one true and living God (Deuteronomy 4:39). However, I would challenge some religious group's stances on the "same God" (such as Islam). We may claim allegiance to the same God but we don't worship the same God.
- B. The God of the Bible only accepts worship that comes through Jesus Christ (John 14:6), not Muhammad, Buddha, Joseph Smith, etc. (Acts 4:12).

VII. "Bad Things Happen to Good People"

- A. While this isn't a biblical statement per se, the idea can be found in Scripture. But it's more accurate to say that bad things happen to all people.
- B. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-good God allows us to suffer because we have the freedom to behave as we will, both good and bad — as well as everyone else (Ecclesiastes 9:11). In the midst of this suffering, He has also provided a place with the greatest contentment we can imagine if only we listen to His, listen to His Son, and listen to His church (Revelation 21:4).

VIII. "God Gains Another Angel When You Die"

- A. Simply put, humans are humans, and angels are angels (Genesis 1:25; Psalm 8:5; 1 Corinthians 6:3). This remains so even in eternity. In Matthew 22:30, Jesus said we will become like angels, not that we will become angels.
- B. In fact, humans are chosen for salvation (2 Thessalonians 2:13), not angels. Furthermore, angels are intrigued by the interaction between God and His "image-bearing" humans (1 Peter 1:10-12). They rejoice when we repent and turn to God (Luke 15:10).

IX. "We're All Going to the Same Place When We Die"

- A. There are two possible destinations when we die: heaven and hell. The Lord Himself taught this (Matthew 25:44-46; John 5:25-29). Only those who are in Christ through submission and obedience will be with Him for all eternity when they physically die (John 14:6; Revelation 21:22-27).
- B. That may seem harsh and unloving, but hell is the place created by God for the punishment of the devil and wicked angels (Matthew 25:41), and those whose

names are not written in the book of life (Revelation 20:15). But our gracious God provides the gospel to turn people away from this eternal punishment.

Conclusion. The fact that many of people believe these unbiblical statements shows the overall biblical illiteracy at this moment in time.

Instead of swallowing popular statements hook, line, and sinker, may we be like the Bereans in Acts. When they heard Paul preach, they wanted to research the Scriptures themselves to authenticate what he was saying (Acts 17:10-11).

I am deeply indebted to Shane Pruitt for the use of his material.