

Bumper Sticker Theology

God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

3-31-19

Why do we say it?

- Because we like to believe _____ made it on _____ own!
And if others would just do what we did – they would make it too.
- So we don't have to feel responsible for _____ others.
“God helps those who help themselves” lets us off the hook.
- Sometimes we say, “God helps those who help themselves,” out of _____ with people we think are lazy or take advantage of the system.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 - “For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: ‘The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.’”

If scripture **doesn't** say “**God helps those who help themselves**”; and God doesn't expect me to “Do it all myself”, what **does** scripture say about **WHO** God helps and **HOW** he helps?

Proverbs 31:8-9 - “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, **for the rights of all who are destitute.** ⁹ Speak up and **judge fairly**; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Outliers:

Elite Hockey players from Canada:

- _____% of the players will have been born between January and March.
- _____% percent between April and June.
- _____% percent between July and September.
- _____% between October and December.

More outlier stats:

- _____% of our homeless population suffers from mental illness.
- _____% of young men who had been in foster care have been convicted of a crime.
- _____% of those in prostitution were sexually assaulted as children.

Big Idea:

God helps those who _____ help themselves and He _____ Christ followers to do it.

1 John 3:16- "This is how we've come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us." The Message

1 John 3:17-18 - If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

John 13:34-35- "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

1 John 3:11 - This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

Next steps:

1. Buy a gift card for Shepherd's Gate and bring it back next week.
2. Stop by the 'Unleashing Compassion' table and sign up to help one of the Compassion groups.