

ASSIGNMENT 11



Emmaus Equipping College Bible Classes

Levels of Meaning

Deuteronomy 25:4 ESV “You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.

1 Corinthians 9:7-14 ESV Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? (8) Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? (9) For it is written in the Law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned? (10) Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. (11) If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? (12) If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. (13) Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? (14) In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

1 Timothy 5:17-18 ESV Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honour, especially those who labour in preaching and teaching. (18) For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The labourer deserves his wages.”

In the light of the above scriptures, do you think Paul is over-using his imagination to give a far-fetch interpretation of Deuteronomy 25:4? Does Paul misinterpret this passage to suit his financial situation? If not, then why? Is the typology of an ox eating threshing grain suitably applied to Paul’s situation? Is he adding an extra layer of meaning and intent that wasn’t in the original text?

Write a passage explaining your understanding and response to the above.

Feel free to discuss another passage of scripture of your own choosing for which you would like to explore with regard to levels of meaning, typology, literal meaning and spiritual meaning, and/or allegory?