

Assignment 11

Arthur Hay

1. I do not think that Paul is misinterpreting from Deuteronomy because the Bible is the inerrant word of God and I therefore do not believe God would allow a misinterpretation into scripture to mislead those seeking after Him. With regards to Paula's financial situation, Paul would not have been a good evangelist if he was in it for the money and a righteous man was living by faith. While I believe he says it is ok for teachers and preachers to be paid in verse 12 he says he does not make use of that right, he goes on to say the furtherance of the Gospel must not be hindered in any way, which is why he worked as a tent maker to support himself while preaching, rather than being a burden on others.

2. Yes. An ox needs to be able to feed itself to have the energy to work and God is concerned that those who work have to live so a portion of the produce is appropriate. The Bible says a worker is worth his wages, 1 Timothy 5:18, because a worker must live and eat as much as an ox.

3. No, but he is expanding on the meaning to stress that as we must all take to live so we must also contribute. He who does not work does not eat, 2 Thessalonians 3:10. He goes on to give examples.

Paul is using an Old Testament example of the basic need that an ox needs food for the energy to do its work and likewise we all need to eat to have the energy to do our work. We all go to work to earn a living, we need to buy food and put a roof over our heads and Paul is expanding on Deuteronomy 24:5 and Timothy goes on to say double honour for elders, as they are worthy of more respect as in their positions, they are accountable to God for the spiritual welfare of their congregations, not just for themselves. Timothy also implies it is right that they get paid for their work, which is understandable if they are putting in the hours in the church when they could be out in the secular workforce earning a living, they also need to eat, put a roof over their heads and may be even have families to keep. Paul voluntarily did not take a wage or stipend for his work but instead worked in a trade as he did not want to hinder the furtherance of the Gospel, if he was taking money for his mission work it may cause resentment and allow for rumours to spread among the non-believers that he was fleecing his converts to get rich.

Assignment 11-1 (voluntary)

Elijah told Ahab what he did not want to hear and had a price on his head, so went off to hide. He had firm words for someone trying to force a pagan religion on the population and was clearly God's enemy.

Our job in proclaiming the Gospel is to clean up society and stop God's enemies from what they are doing, and there are many of them. Go out and pick your enemies to stop their bad work. Judgement starts at the house of God, 1 Peter 4:17 so start within your own church, those who you feel dress inappropriately in church and those who have life style matters that need attention, like drinking alcohol or hanging out with non-believers, those who are members of secular organisations and those who have jobs doing things you disapprove of, tell them to get a more respectable job and not be a nuisance to society. There will also be those dating and going out with non-believers, give them an ultimatum, their partner or the church, they cannot have both. As they say, you cannot have your cake and eat it.

Once you have cleaned up your own church work on other Christians, this should be easy, we all have some doctrinal differences between denominations so pick a difference and tell them how they are wrong and must repent, perhaps the other denomination is a cult.

Then go out in to the community and spread the Gospel and get them to live by God's standards. You can go in to a newsagent and have a go at the manager for selling pornographic magazines and other literature you consider to be inappropriate for Christians to read. You can also go in to a pub with a megaphone, tell people how evil alcohol is and they need to repent, if you are thrown out that is nothing new, look what happened to Paul. You can always stand outside and picket the pub. Walk down the street and anyone you see owning a new expensive luxury car tell them how it is very hard for a rich man to get in to Heaven. If you see anyone in the street badly dressed, either clothing with satanic symbols like the Converse logo (star in a circle), women in scanty clothing, men with long hair etc tell them how evil they are. Of course there are also gays etc, they especially need attention.

Unfortunately, I have seen a lot of this, although in some churches I have seen people who I felt should dress better. When I started attending an evangelical church one man there, about 10 years older than me, thought I should not be working as a door-to-door salesman. I was 19 and it was a starting job to not be unemployed and to use the experience to go on to a better job. The profession is somewhat looked down upon in England but he spent a very long time unemployed because "the right one" did not come up. I remember one church I attended where another in the youth group continually nagged me because I liked the occasional wine or beer. The church had a strong stand against alcohol and it caused me to thoroughly study relevant scriptures and I came to the conclusion it was ok. This bloke was so stuck up trying to be holy I think he missed the point, he could not agree to disagree and one occasion he went crying to a youth group leader about me hoping for an ally, but the leader, while a non-drinker firmly put him in his place. At the same church another youth group leader questioned whether I should be in Jaycees, where we did debate, public speaking and personal development, that experience helped equip me in work, life skills and the ability to later in life get up and speak in public, like preaching sermons.

My wife's niece got a non-Christian boyfriend and the trainee minister on block release from Bible College gave her an ultimatum to leave him or the church, she chose him, married him and has an 11-year-old boy, that is a whole family now out of church. What an opportunity missed for someone else to hear and respond to the gospel. Before I met Ruth I had a non-Christian girlfriend, while I did have some criticism at church whenever I brought her along, she was welcomed and came to some services and Bible studies and did hear the Gospel, even if she did not respond.

I have heard a lot about how others are not Christians because they do something differently. I heard enough of the Gospel in an Anglican church to take myself to the Baptist church to hear more and have a relationship with God. I knew good Christians, as well as heretics, in that church and I believe any church will have a mixture of true believers and fakes, with differing ratios and some with more than others in leadership. Denominations are actually man made and I can have fellowship quite happily with many Christians of many backgrounds.

There was at one time a church group that set up with loud, very loud, speakers in Rundle Mall disturbing everyone claiming to preach the Gospel but actually severely criticising every passerby and making a thorough nuisance of themselves. The type I think many Christians would find embarrassing but might not admit it to many.

I have heard of people being asked to leave the church, if someone is disruptive in their behaviour then yes, but I read about a man in America called Walt Heyer, a detransitioned transgender. When he was living as a woman he moved to a new town and attended a local church, that same afternoon the pastor paid him a visit and said they don't want him in their church. What an opportunity missed for someone who needed Jesus. Is the church there to serve God or prop up a conservative lifestyle? I could not find the Bible reference but Jesus had words for leaders who kept themselves and others out of Heaven.