

Joshua Anderson – Grasping God’s Word – Assignment 11

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?

I do not think Paul is overusing his imagination to give a far-fetch interpretation of Deuteronomy 25:4 in a new way from allegorizing or spiritualizing the text.

He was applying the theological principle in the text to his situation that *“the labourer deserves his wages”* whether animals or people in the service of God or not.

In 1 Timothy 5:18 Paul directly quotes Jesus who himself supported that those who share in the work of the gospel should be provided for (Luke 10:7, Matthew 10:10).

When Paul says *“is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does He not certainly speak for our sake?”* Paul He isn’t insisting that Deuteronomy 25:4 has nothing to do with an ox saying that it applies only to God’s children or most specifically the minister of the gospel. This would be straying from the intent of the original text. Rather like Jesus taught about God’s Children’s value being so much more than birds (Matthew 6:26) and sparrows (Matthew 10:29-31), of which God provides for them and watches over too.

Paul is using hyperbole to say if there is something in the passage for an ox there is something for His children made in His image too. Just as the scriptures weren’t passed down for an ox to read/hear and benefit from (although the ox does benefit in this situation) but for the Child of God to learn & apply in letter and spirit of said law.

So, like Paul we can benefit from both directly in its physical application, providing a sustained, motivated & effective Ox, or from applying its principle, as in this application, providing a sustained, motivated & effective minister of the gospel.