

Karen Sweeney

Assignment 11

## Levels Of Meaning

Paul, who established the Corinthian church, worked as a tentmaker earning his own money while preaching and teaching about Jesus and our heavenly Father. In 1 Corinthians 9:7-14, Paul is using examples defending his right to be paid for his ministry, arguing that those who preach the gospel should make a living from it.

Galatians 6:6 “Those who are taught the word of God should provide for their teachers, sharing all good things with them”. This is a clear example that Paul should be paid for all that he has done for the Corinthian church

Paul quotes from Deuteronomy 25:4 “You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain”, showing that God cares for the animals doing daily work, that surely preaching the gospel and laboring for God should be supported by its members.

Numbers 18:26 “Give these instructions to the Levites: When you receive from the people of Israel the tithes I have assigned as your allotment, give a tenth of the tenth you receive”. The Levites were paid for performing the service the Lord commanded since that was their specific duties. Paul is also performing duties the Lord has assigned to him as well.

Luke 10:7 “And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages” is talking about when Jesus sent out his 72 followers 2 by 2 to preach in the towns that he was going to travel to.

The descriptive examples Paul is using, I feel, are appropriate for his argument, such as the soldier getting compensated for his service and the farmer growing grapes and eating what has grown. Paul was trying to convey that those who dedicate most of their time to preach the gospel and to teach others should be compensated as in any other profession. He wanted to establish his rights even though he never took money because he wanted to set himself apart from the false teachers and teach the Corinthians about self-sacrifice and relinquishing one's rights to help others.