

Deuteronomy 25:1-26:19 (May 21, 2021)

Reflection: Why does a Christian care about living biblically? What would you say to a young Christian about the value of living their lives as the Bible prescribes?

Read Deuteronomy 25:1-16

1. Summarize Moses' instructions and rationale on justice and punishment in the court (v.1-3), the treatment of animals (v.4), the responsibility of a brother to his brother's wife if his brother dies (v.5-6), a brother's refusal to fulfill his duty in a levirate marriage (v.7-10), a woman who seizes the private parts of her husband's assailant (v.11-12), on weights used for trade and business (v.13-16).

2. These commands deal with issues of justice in the courts, care of animals, the right family behaviour, and just business transactions. What principles might we learn about how to treat those around us (including animals) and those under our charge? What are some practical ways we can apply these principles in our everyday lives?

Read Deuteronomy 25:17-19

3. Who are the Amalekites (cf. Gen 36:9-11, Ex 17:8-13, 1 Samuel 15:2), and what was God's instruction and rationale about dealing with them in this passage?

4. Do Christians have mortal enemies? (Eph 6:12, 1 Pet 2:11, Rom 7:23, Eph 6:11, 1 Pet 5:8-9). How are Christians told to combat these adversaries? (Matt 26:41, Jas 4:7)

Read Deuteronomy 26:1-15

5. Summarize Moses' instructions and rationale on what Israel was to do with the first fruit of the ground (v.1-11), what they were to do after paying all the tithes of produce on third year (v.12-15).

6. These sections are related to worshipping God. Why is remembering God's providence and our fidelity to Him important to our worship? How do we personally use remembrance in our own worship?

Read Deuteronomy 26:16-19

7. These four verses are an important theological statement of the book of Deuteronomy. Summarize in your own words these verses.

8. Take 5-10 mins and sketch out a confessional statement of what God has done for us, what God's promises are for us, and how we should respond to Him.

This section of Deuteronomy marks the end of God's formal instruction to Israel on righteous living. I hope that through reading Deuteronomy we have learned that though we are no longer under the Law there is still much we can learn about how we are to live as Christians in this world today and that it is for our own good pleasure and blessing to live faithfully to Him. I also want to remind us that faithful living is not what makes us righteous before God, but like the Israelites, our desire to love and please God results in good works. May we all seek to live faithfully to God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.