

Deuteronomy 14:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Levite that is within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him; for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee.

Analysis

And the Levite that is within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him—The festival joy must include the tribe with **no part nor inheritance** in land. The Levites' 'portion' was the LORD Himself (Numbers 18:20), requiring others' support. Worship integrity includes economic justice.

Paul applies this principle: **They which preach the gospel should live of the gospel** (1 Corinthians 9:14). **The labourer is worthy of his reward** (1 Timothy 5:18). Yet Israel repeatedly 'forsook' Levites (Nehemiah 13:10), causing temple service collapse. Modern parallel: underfunding pastors while spending lavishly on personal comforts demonstrates disordered priorities. Supporting gospel workers is worship, not charity.

Historical Context

The Levites received no tribal land allotment, depending entirely on the other tribes' tithes (Numbers 18:21-24). When Israel neglected tithing, Levites abandoned temple service for subsistence farming (Nehemiah 13:10), crippling corporate worship and covenant instruction.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does your church's support of pastors/missionaries reflect (or fail to reflect) God's priority on gospel ministry?
2. What modern 'Levites' (those dedicating lives to ministry) might you be tempted to 'forsake' through financial neglect?
3. In what ways does supporting gospel workers constitute worship rather than mere obligation?

Interlinear Text

וְהַלֵּוִי	אֲשֶׁר	בְּשַׁעַר יָבֵ	לֹא	תַעֲזֹב נָו	כִּי
And the Levite	H834	that is within thy gates	H3808	thou shalt not forsake	H3588
H3881		H8179		H5800	
לֹא יִהְיֶה	חֵלֶק	וְנַחֲלָה	עִמָּהּ:		
H369	H0	him for he hath no part	nor inheritance	H5973	
		H2506	H5159		

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 14:29 (Parallel theme): And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest.

Numbers 18:20 (Parallel theme): And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel.

Deuteronomy 12:12 (Parallel theme): And ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your maidservants, and the Levite that is within your gates; forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you.

1 Timothy 5:17 (Parallel theme): Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

Galatians 6:6 (Parallel theme): Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

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