

Proverbs 16:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A just weight and balance are the LORD'S: all the weights of the bag are his work.

Analysis

God requires just weights and balances—'A just weight and balance are the LORD's: all the weights of the bag are his work.' The Hebrew 'mishpat' (just) emphasizes legal and ethical correctness. This verse establishes God as the source and guarantor of justice in commerce. Dishonest business practices violate God's character. Reformed theology sees all of life as coram Deo (before the face of God), including economic transactions. There is no secular sphere exempt from God's standards. Integrity in business reflects God's righteousness.

Historical Context

Merchants carried stone weights in bags for measuring goods in transactions. Dishonest merchants used heavier weights when buying and lighter weights when selling. Mosaic law repeatedly condemned false weights (Leviticus 19:36, Deuteronomy 25:13-16).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Are you scrupulously honest in all business and financial dealings?
2. How does viewing commerce as 'the LORD's work' change your approach to business ethics?
3. What modern equivalents to false weights exist in your profession or industry?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	מַעֲשֵׂה הוֹ	לִיהוָה	מִשְׁפָּט	וּמֵאזֶנֶי	פֶּה לֵס
	are his work	are the LORD'S	A just	and balance	weight
H3605	H4639	H3068	H4941	H3976	H6425
אֲבָנֵי		כִּיס:			
all the weights		of the bag			
H68		H3599			

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 11:1 (Righteousness): A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.

Proverbs 20:10 (References Lord): Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them are alike abomination to the LORD.

Ezekiel 45:10 (Righteousness): Ye shall have just balances, and a just ephah, and a just bath.

Hosea 12:7 (Parallel theme): He is a merchant, the balances of deceit are in his hand: he loveth to oppress.