

## ~MUZZLE (89)

- **A device designed to cover an animal's mouth and prevent it from biting or eating.**
- **Cattle were often used in ancient Palestine when a large quantity of grain was to be threshed. In preparation, the sheaves were untied and distributed over the hard-packed surface of the threshing floor until a thick layer was formed.**
- **Then one or more animals trod the grain with their hooves or it was threshed by means of a threshing sledge or other implement they drew over it. The Mosaic Law commanded;**
- **You must not muzzle a bull while it is threshing. (Deuteronomy 25:4)**
- **Thus it was not tortured with a desire to eat some of the grain that it was expending its strength to thresh.**
- **The righteous one is caring for the soul of his domestic animal, but the mercies of the wicked ones are cruel. (Proverbs 12:10)**
- **The principle involved at;**
- **You must not muzzle a bull while it is threshing. (Deuteronomy 25:4)**
- **Can also be applied to human laborers. Paul told Timothy,**
- **Let the older men who preside in a fine way be reckoned worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in speaking and teaching. (1 Timothy 5:17)**
- **For the scripture says: You must not muzzle a bull when it threshes out the grain. Also; The workman is worthy of his wages. (1 Timothy 5:18)**
- **Then, confirming his counsel, the apostle quoted the Law about not muzzling a bull when it is threshing grain.**

- Also, as part of Paul's reasoning to show the Corinthians that the Lord ordained for those proclaiming the Good News to live by means of the Good News, he quoted:

- You must not **muzzle** a bull while it is threshing. (**Deuteronomy 25:4**)

- Am I speaking these things by human standards? Or does not the Law also say these things? (**1 Corinthians 9:8**)

- For in the Law of Moses it is written: You must not **muzzle** a bull when it is threshing out the grain. Is it bulls God is caring for? (**1 Corinthians 9:9**)

- Or is it altogether for our sakes he says it? Really for our sakes it was written, because the man who plows ought to plow in hope and the man who threshes ought to do so in hope of being a partaker. (**1 Corinthians 9:10**)

- If we have sown spiritual things to you, is it something great if we shall reap things for the flesh from you? (**1 Corinthians 9:11**)

- If other men partake of this authority over you, do we not much more so? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this authority, but we are bearing all things, in order, that we might not offer any hindrance to the Good News about the Christ. (**1 Corinthians 9:12**)

- Do you not know that the men performing sacred duties eat the things of the temple, and those constantly attending at the altar have a portion for themselves with the altar? (**1 Corinthians 9:13**)

- In this way, too, the Lord ordained for those proclaiming the Good News to live by means of the Good News. (**1 Corinthians 9:14**)

- The psalmist David used **muzzle** figuratively when he said that he set one as a guard to his mouth to keep from sinning.

- I said; I will guard my ways to keep from sinning with my tongue. I will set a **muzzle as a guard to my own mouth**, as long as anyone wicked is in front of me. (**Psalms 39:1**)

