

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

(1) Honesty in all things is a quality that believers should strive for.

Honesty in all things: business, taxes, trading, and relationships.

The Israelites were to be totally honest in business dealings. They could afford to be honest simply because they couldn't afford not to! After all, it was ultimately the Lord who would withhold from them or prosper them. Thus, honesty in business is a way to proclaim one's faith in God. Meditate on this!

(2) Christians, show kindness to people and even animals.

Animals to be treated with kindness. **Proverbs 12:10a**, "A righteous man has regard for the life of his animal, . . ." God is even concerned about the lowly threshing animal. Here in **Deuteronomy 25:4** is the only place in the OT that this subject is broached, however, in application to people Paul used it twice, see **I Corinthians 9:9-10; I Timothy 5:18**.

(3) Coveting is not an act but an attitude. Be careful where it leads you!

The basis of verses 13-16 is found in the 10th commandment. Wanting what is not yours fuels jealousy and envy towards those who do have a said thing, this is to covet. Beware that this attitude does not draw you into sinful actions.

About the differing weights and measures, it was not sin to have these objects. The problem was that to possess them would be a large temptation to do what was wrong. Innocent objects could lead to unscrupulous actions one author wrote. To refrain from possessing them would guard against giving vent to temptation. Dishonest dealings or sinful behavior brought on by the coveting of things is detestable to the Lord. Attitudes and actions such as these are so displeasing to the Lord that it could jeopardize long life in the land.