

Pastors

SALARY

WAGES

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# Introduction

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Is it biblical for pastors, apostles, evangelists, and bishops be paid wages for the work of the ministry?

# Jesus said

7 And stay on in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house.

**Luke 10:7 AMPC**

When Jesus was commanding His disciples, He was telling them that whatever house they enter that they should stay there. They are worthy to have food and their needs met because they are doing Kingdom work.

## Strong's Definitions [?]

(Strong's Definitions Legend)

**μισθός** *misthós*, mis-thos'; apparently a primary word; pay for service (literally or figuratively), good or bad:—hire, reward, wages.

## Thayer's Greek Lexicon [?]


(Jump to Scripture Index)

### STRONGS G3408:

SHOW ALL

**μισθός**, **μισθοῦ**, **ὄ** (from Homer down), the Sept. for **שָׂכָר**, also for **מְשַׁכֵּרֶת**, etc.;

1. **dues paid for work; wages, hire**: Romans 4:4 (**κατά ὀφείλημα**); in a prov., Luke 10:7 and 1 Timothy 5:18; Matthew 20:8; James 5:4; Jude 1:11 (on which see **ἐκχέω**, at the end); **μισθός ἀδικίας**, wages obtained by iniquity, Acts 1:18; 2 Peter 2:15 (cf. Winer's Grammar, § 30, 1 a.).



# Paul said

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14 [On the same principle] the Lord directed that those who publish the good news (the Gospel) should live (get their maintenance) by the Gospel.

**1 Corinthians 9:14 AMPC**

6 Let him who receives instruction in the Word [of God] **share all good things with his teacher** [contributing to his support].

**Galatians 6:6 AMPC**

It is a command of Jesus that we help those who preach the Gospel and take care of their needs.

# Financial Support

17 Let the elders who perform the duties of their office *well be considered doubly worthy of honor* [and of adequate [financial support], especially those who labor faithfully in preaching and teaching.

18 For the Scripture says, You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain, and again, The laborer is worthy of his hire.

**1 Timothy 5:17-18 AMPC**

**\*Let's be mindful to help those who labor for the Kingdom of God. They are worthy to receive financial support for God's Kingdom.**

\*We must Value Kingdom Work more than earthly work!

# Who Supported Jesus?

Soon afterward, [Jesus] went on through towns and villages, preaching and bringing the good news (the Gospel) of the kingdom of God. And the Twelve [apostles] were with Him,

2 And also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had been expelled;

3 And Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager; and Susanna; and many others, **who ministered to and provided for Him and them out of their property and personal belongings.**

**Luke 8:1-3 AMPC**

3. **to minister**, i. e. **supply food and the necessaries of life**: with the dative of person, Matthew 25:44; Matthew 27:55; Mark 15:41; **διηκόνουν αὐτοῖς ἐκ** (Rec. **ἀπὸ**) **τῶν ὑπαρχόντων αὐταῖς**, Luke 8:3; **to relieve one's necessities** (e. g. by collecting alms): Romans 15:25; Hebrews 6:10 **τραπέζαις**, to provide,

# Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

**8:2–3** Although women in general had fewer resources than men, some were wealthy, and some scholars estimate that a tenth of all patrons in antiquity were women. Women benefactors were normally acceptable (cf. 2Ki 4:8–10), but enemies sometimes used one's support by such benefactors as a grounds for criticism. Married women traveling with men other than their husbands, however, as here, could occasion much more criticism (cf. note on Jn 4:27). Although a few philosophic schools had or permitted some women disciples, they are almost unknown among Jewish schools for the study of the Torah. (Persian and other cultures to the east of the Roman Empire had some strict protocols for women, but even Roman philosophic teachers who welcomed women students, such as Musonius Rufus, sometimes felt compelled to explain that intellectual training would aid women in

# Greek Meaning for Substance

KJV Translation Count — Total: 14x

The KJV translates Strong's G5224 in the following manner: goods (7x), that (one) has (4x), things which (one) possesses (2x), substance (1x).

## Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

1. possessions, goods, wealth, property

## Strong's Definitions [?]

(Strong's Definitions Legend)

**ὑπάρχοντα** *huparchōnta*, hoop-ar'-khon-tah; neuter plural of present participle active of G5225 as noun; things extant or in hand, i.e. property or possessions:— goods, that which one has, things which (one) possesseth, substance, that hast.



# Free From Common Work

“Have we not the right to our food and drink [at the expense of the churches]? Have we not the right also to take along with us a Christian sister as wife, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas (Peter)? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from doing manual labor for a livelihood [in order to go about the work of the ministry]? [Consider this:] What soldier at any time serves at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat any of the fruit of it? Who tends a flock and does not partake of the milk of the flock? Do I say this only on human authority and as a man reasons? Does not the Law endorse the same principle? For in the Law of Moses it is written, You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the corn. Is it [only] for oxen that God cares? [Deut. 25:4.] Or does He speak certainly and entirely for our sakes? [Assuredly] it is written for our sakes, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher ought to thresh in expectation of partaking of the harvest. If we have sown [the seed of] spiritual good among you, [is it too] much if we reap from your material benefits? If others share in this rightful claim upon you, do not we [have a still better and greater claim]? However, we have never exercised this right, but we endure everything rather than put a hindrance in the way [of the spread] of the good news (the Gospel) of Christ. Do you not know that those men who are employed in the services of the temple get their food from the temple? And that those who tend the altar share with the altar [in the offerings brought]? [Deut. 18:1.] [On the same principle] the Lord directed that those who publish the good news (the Gospel) should live (get their maintenance) by the Gospel.”

**1 Corinthians 9:4-14 AMPC**

- **Command**

It is also written that those who are messengers in the Faith spreading the Gospel have the right to be free from common work so they can focus on Kingdom Work which is more valuable.

# Focus on Kingdom Work

““So the Twelve [apostles] convened the multitude of the disciples and said, **It is not seemly or desirable or right that we should have to give up or neglect [preaching] the Word of God in order to attend to serving at tables and superintending the distribution of food.** Therefore select out from among yourselves, brethren, seven men of good and attested character and repute, full of the [Holy] Spirit and wisdom, whom we may assign to look after this business and duty. But we will continue to devote ourselves steadfastly to prayer and the ministry of the Word. And the suggestion pleased the whole assembly, and they selected Stephen, a man full of faith (a strong and welcome belief that Jesus is the Messiah) and full of and controlled by the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte (convert) from Antioch.”

## **Acts 6:2-5 AMPC**

It is good to allow the Bishops, Pastors, Evangelists, and Teachers to focus on ministry. This is another reason why we should support them financially so they can focus full time on serving God.

# Paul Received Wages

7 But did I perhaps make a mistake and do you a wrong in debasing and cheapening myself so that you might be exalted and enriched in dignity and honor and happiness by preaching God's Gospel without expense to you?

8 *Other churches I have robbed by accepting [more than their share of] support for my ministry [from them in order] to serve you.*

9 And when I was with you and ran short financially, I did not burden any [of you], for what I lacked was abundantly made up by the brethren who came from Macedonia. So I kept myself from being burdensome to you in any way, and will continue to keep [myself from being so].

**2 Corinthians 11:7-9 AMPC**

# Cultural Background Study Bible

knowledge ) mattered more than style.

**11:7** *free of charge.* In Greco-Roman culture, a rejection of someone's gift was also a rejection of friendship and a declaration of animosity; Paul's rivals thus may have emphasized his refusal to depend on his Corinthian patrons' support. Nevertheless, Paul uses sarcasm: Greco-Roman culture also honored benefactors who provided services freely.

Paul's rivals may claim that they are professionals, in contrast to Paul, a mere amateur who knows that he does not deserve to be paid. Sages on the payroll of patrons, however, had less freedom to challenge the patrons' values, a role Paul rejects. Against normal expectations, especially of the elite, Paul preferred manual labor (1Co 4:12; 9:6) to the usual dependence of teachers on patrons, tuition, or even begging (see notes on 1Co 9:15,19). Paul might also use this practice to distinguish himself clearly from sophists (cf. v. 6), who were accused of speaking and teaching only for money.

**11:9** *I was not a burden to anyone.* Patrons sometimes thought of their clients as a burden, and people some-

8 I robbed other churches, taking wages of them,  
to do you service. 2 Corinthians 11:8 KJV

#### Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I. a soldier's pay, allowance
  - A. that part of the soldier's support given in place of pay [i.e. rations] and the money in which he is paid
- II. metaph. wages: hire or pay of sin

#### Strong's Definitions [?]

(Strong's Definitions Legend)

**ὀψώνιον opsōnion**, op-so'-nee-on; neuter of a presumed derivative of the same as [G3795](#); rations for a soldier, i.e. (by extension) his stipend or pay:—wages.



# Believe What You Read

It is biblical for pastors and ministers to receive salary or wages. Jesus commanded it and Paul received wages from churches. The salary and wages should be modest and NOT outlandish.

