

Title: A Just Weight and Measure

Text: Deuteronomy 25: 13-19

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You and I are responsible to glorify holy God. Every man is responsible to obey God in thought, word and deed with perfect holiness. No exceptions. With sinners the only way that we glorify God is by looking away from ourselves and believing on Christ Jesus the Son of God. But how can totally ignorant, unjust, unholy, prisoners of sin do that!

Scripture says, **1Corinthians 1:30: But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.**

God will receive glory from sinners who understand that they owe all that they are to his particular choice and grace toward them in Christ Jesus. Our acceptance with God continues and ends the same place it begins with God. We get in Christ only by God putting us in Christ by his sovereign electing choice. Our minds have been so thoroughly corrupted by sin that the only way our own total ignorance is overcome is when God makes Christ unto us Wisdom. Our sense of God's justice has been so completely eradicated that we think it is just for God to accept us based on a superficial obedience to his law, that God is just to totally disregard the sin we are by nature and the iniquities for which we are already guilty in our past. That is, until God makes Christ Righteousness unto us. Our spiritual corruption runs so deep that our idea of separation from this world, and of holiness before God, is something we obtain by the strength of our flesh--that though we begin in the Spirit we can somehow make ourselves perfect using the flesh. At least that is how things are until God makes Christ Sanctification unto us. In our self-loving sin all salvation, all our religion, all our secular life revolves around "I"--we think more highly of ourselves than anyone else, especially God. That is until God makes Christ our Redemption then we behold that we are not our own, we are bought with the price of his own blood, and we are his.

Until God breaks our old unjust, deceitful balances we glory in the flesh. Whether we think we contribute 99% to these things are whether we think we contribute 1%, we are using an unjust and imperfect weight and measure. That is what every man does until God makes Christ our Savior, our Lord and our All.

The title of our message this morning is: **A Perfect and Just Weight; A Perfect and Just Measure**

Divisions: **I. Great and Small Weights; II. The Perfect and Just Weight; The Perfect and Just Measure; III. The Thing Thou Shalt Have**

I. Great and Small Weights

Deuteronomy 25: 13: Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small. 14: Thou shalt not have in thine house divers measures, a great and a small.

A. The meaning of this law is that we are to use just weights and measures.

Those items which are weighed are put on a scale and a stone which had been weighed and was a standard use of measurement was placed on the other side of the balance to determine how much the item weighed.

The law states we are not to have a "great" stone (a heavy stone) to use when we are buying so we can pay less. And then turn around as we are selling those items and use a "small" stone (a lighter stone) so we can make more profit. Verse 16 says, **For all that do such things, and all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the LORD thy God.**

Illustration: Lately we have heard the public outcry at the unjust dealings of men in corporate positions, of lenders, and so on who have used deceitful practices in their dealings with working men and women. We have seen how far reaching the effects of such deceitful balances have on a nation. Corruption which subverts just dealing between men and men undermines a society. If the laws of buying and selling are corrupted, a nation has no security and is sure to fall.

But far worse is the deceitful measures used with the all knowing God of heaven and earth. If any of God's law does not pronounce us guilty before God, and place us squarely at his feet of mercy, then we can be sure we have not heard the law--we are guilty by thinking we have obeyed it. Our balances are unjust and imperfect.

B. This law had a direct relation to the offerings which sinner's brought to the temple to offer to the Lord.

1. If the weights and measures were deceitful, when it came time to bring an ephah of an homer of wheat, or the tenth part of a bath of oil, the precise amount would be off--unjust, deceitful before God.

Micah 6: 8: He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?...10: Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable? 11: Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances, and with the bag of deceitful weights?

2. This is the case with every sinner. If this were the only law it would be the only needed to shut our mouths in guilt before God. We see it in religion all around us:

For an example: In verses 17-19 the Lord calls to remembrance the unjust, deceitful dealings of Amalek to the children of Israel.

- They were freed from slavery out of Egypt--tired and weak--like a babe in Christ just freed from the slavery of sin.

- Amalek came up by surprise as they walked in the way.
- He attacked from behind--he attacked the weakest, the faint and weary
- He did so because he did not fear God.

3. A child of God, by God's grace, is just learning of Christ, just walking with Christ by faith some Amalek comes up by surprise, saying:

- "Now understand...Christ and what he accomplished is on this side of the scale and your faith and obedience is on this side...to balance things out. Or this is a favorite:
- "On the left side is lawlessness and on the right side is legalism and it is up to you to keep the balance."
- If we begin to imagine that the God's choice of us was based on something in us--imperfect and unjust weight.
- If we imagine that Christ's work of making God just and justifier is only made effectual by our faith--imperfect and unjust weight.
- If we imagine that regeneration or conversion is somehow dependent upon the sinners power to choose or reject Christ so that ultimately the choice falls upon you the sinner--imperfect and unjust weight.
- If we imagine that perseverance is something in which the believer should glory then we fail to recognize that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:...or...I Corinthians 1: 5: That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and *in* all knowledge; 6: Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: 7: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: 8: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, *that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9: God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.***
- THIS IS THE FAVORITE AMONG THOSE AROUND US: You begin in the Spirit, you begin at Mt. Zion, in Christ, but now you are made perfect--you are sanctified--you become holy by going back to Mt. Sinai, to the law, to your flesh, to your obedience, to your will, to your wisdom--that is an imperfect and unjust weight.

God says this: **Proverbs 20: 10: Divers weights, *and* divers measures, both of them *are* alike abomination to the LORD.**

C. GOD STATES IN HIS LAW THAT WE CAN NOT HAVE TWO STONES--TWO WEIGHTS--IN OUR BAG.

1. When the Lord said: **Matthew 23:23: Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.**

- They paid these things, they told sinners that obedience to God, that being holy before God and separate from this world was by obeying the law of offering...instead of

believing on Christ in whom the whole law is established and in sinner's establish the law. Thus the weight by which they balanced the scales of justice was the weight of man.

- The best righteousness, the best justice, the most perfect and just weight would only be as perfect as the best man--which would still fall short of the glory of God.
- But, they had another stone to measure what they received. They expected God to deal less harshly--to use another weight when judging them. Because after all they were sincere, they had done many works which in comparison with other abominations, though they were still abomination before God, were wonderfully less of an abomination.
- There can not be two stones in our bag--there can not be a great stone and a lesser stone--there can not be our persons and Christ's person, our works and Christ's work, there can only be the exact requirement--that is Christ Jesus the Lord, the Son of God alone.
- The weightier matters of the law--judgment, mercy and faith--as well as the lesser are perfectly performed, not by us, but by Christ Jesus the Lord. He is the exact Ephah, the Shekel of the sanctuary, and by faith in him we have established the law of God--we have the measurement which God requires.
- But as long as our message is focused on men doing these things--we not only omit the love of Christ which constrains sinners to deal justly, in mercy, and faithfully with other men, but pointing men to the flesh, we deal in imperfect and unjust weights of deceit.

Psalm 62:9: Surely men of low degree *are* vanity, and men of high degree *are* a lie: to be laid in the balance, they *are* altogether *lighter* than vanity.

Jeremiah 6:30: Reprobate silver shall *men* call them, because the LORD hath rejected them.

D. Notice something in Deuteronomy 25: 13: This law reaches to the heart.

1. It does not say simply that we are not to use two different weights, but "**thou shalt not have in thy bag**". If you have thought about falsifying the weight and measures then you have done it and are guilty.

2. Sin is what we are. Our thoughts and doings are the result, the fruit, of what we are:

When you walked out of the grocery store with your buggy and loaded your grocery bags into your car and noticed that bag of charcoal down below that was never rang up...it's that little fleeting moment when you looked at how easy it would be just to drive off that reveals to us that a thief is what I am; it's that little feeling of goodness after you walked all that distance back in the store to pay for it that made us realize, self-righteousness, imagining myself righteous without God is what I am.

That's just how precise God measures, in the heart. The man who pats himself on the back--glories in his goodness--because he didn't drive off he may be *less* offensive to God than the man who drove away without paying, but there is none good, no not one, there is none that doeth good and sinneth not. I am speaking to you who believe, as well as you who do not.

The point is, mortifying this flesh, yielding our members unto holiness, is not done by trusting your flesh but looking away from this flesh, not expecting your members to balance between lawlessness and legalism but to look to the Author and Finisher of faith, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits, as he is so are you in this present evil world.

A sinner is made to understand the perfect and just weight that God requires only by beholding Christ. He is constrained only by the love of Christ.

Go through scripture and note something: Any time believers are exhorted to yield their members as servants unto holiness, or to mortify the deeds of the flesh...notice how much time is spent before hand declaring that in Christ you are dead to sin...sin shall not have dominion over you for you are not under the law but under grace...having these promises (promises of God which are yes and Amen in Christ and not maybe depending upon your works)...seek those things above. We are coming to the last pages of in our Hebrews study, we will see some very practical instruction...but the focus, the emphasis of the book has been on the person and finished work of Christ for 12 out of 13 chapters.

The point is: we have but one constraint to turn from this flesh and the sin of this flesh...it is that better thing which is Christ Jesus the Lord. If we spend the major part of our time telling sinners to tithe, to treat others a certain way, to sing louder and pray harder, to witness more and complain less, but we have not held up Christ then we have omitted the weightier matters.

II. So Let's See The Perfect and Just Weight; The Perfect and Just Measure

Deuteronomy 25: 15: *But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

A. If you would approach God, be accepted of God, have your days lengthened in the land God gives...Thou Shalt Have A Perfect and Just Weight, A perfect and just measure shalt thou have...****

1. God requires no sin in conception, never a sinful thought, a perfect fulfillment of submission to him, of trust in him.

- Christ is the Perfect and Just Weight
- In his person, he is the perfect and just One, the holy Man
- Not born of Adam, but that Holy Thing
- In his heart he was perfect and just under God's law. His obedience did not make him holy. His obedience merely manifest that his heart was the very holiness of God.

2. On behalf of his people, Christ Jesus offered the Perfect and Just Offering to the God his people offended. No sin in him--he was perfect to be accepted of God. So he took the sin of his people and offered himself upon the scales of infinite justice.

2 Corinthians 5: 21: For he hath made him *to be sin for us*, who knew no sin; (what did he accomplish by doing so) that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Romans 8:3: For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: (turn to this passage)

Galatians 3:13: Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:

3. At Calvary we behold just how exact--how perfect and just--our God is concerning his law and how perfect and just we must be.

- When Christ was made sin for us, God did not make an exception and pass over him.
- His holiness demands by law--**the soul that sinneth it shall die.**
- God poured out a perfect and just measure of wrath upon our Substitute on the cursed tree
- No more and no less than to satisfy justice for eternity for every sin of every sinner which God put in Christ Jesus. Christ paid the sin debt in full of all those for whom he died.
- That same perfect and just measure of God that would not pass over Christ on the cross, will not exact justice a second time on those for whom Christ died.
- Justice has been satisfied. Sin has been condemned in the flesh. They have been reconciled to God in Christ. Atonement has been made. Satisfaction is met. They are no longer wanting but perfect and just in Christ.

4. This is the Stone--the one Stone wherewith God weighs and measures all men.

Acts 17: 31: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that man whom he hath ordained*; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Ecclesiastes 12:14: For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be good*, or whether *it be evil*.

- Whether your work is good or whether it is evil
- It is not my goodness you will be weighed against, nor the good or evil of any other sinners the righteousness which you will be judged by--the perfect and just weight--will be Christ Jesus the Righteousness of God.

1Samuel 2:3 Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let *not* arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD *is* a God of knowledge, and by him (By him and by him in Christ) actions are weighed. Do you want your actions to be yours or to be Christ's. Faith says look to Christ for my actions. Works says look to me.

5. Only by faith in Christ do sinners establish the law---do we obey God, do we submit to God, do we trust God--in the same perfect and just measure as Christ did.

- He is the Author of eternal salvation to all those who obey him.
- By trusting Christ we satisfy God--which is the law demands.

Romans 3:31: Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

Romans 4:14: For if they which are of the law *be* heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

The promise is that God's Son would come to honor and magnify God's law--both for God and for his people--and thereby God may justly give them their just due of eternal life. Through faith, God imputes the righteousness of Christ.

Illustration: When we are paying with our own money we get upset if the scales are imperfect and unjust.

- **The Restaurant.**
- **Isaiah 9:6: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder:**
- God paid with his own Son. Do you expect God to accept some deceiver who approaches him attempting to sell ourselves to God using a weight less than the perfect righteousness of his Son?

III. The thing thou shalt have...

When God brings a sinner to behold the exactness, the perfect and just scales of God, set forth in Christ upon the cursed tree, the sinner is brought to behold what she is and she hears that according to all her works, all her righteousnesses, all the deeds of her flesh, God says, **Daniel 5:27: Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.**

Such a sinner who is brought by God to behold themselves, to be honest with themselves, they behold they need a perfect and just measure to satisfy God's holy law, to be accepted with God and so they cry out to the only one they know can give it...

God writes his law on our inward parts, he forms Christ in you the hope of glory, and that still small voice says to you in your inner most parts: **Deuteronomy 25: 15: *But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have:*** (it is free--perfectly justified, a perfect and just measure of grace, of righteousness, of holiness--it is yours--have it, have it--it costs you nothing because I balanced my own scales, I am the righteousness you lack, my righteousness is your righteousness, thou shalt have a perfect and just measure, a just measure of faith and repentance, of growth in knowledge and understanding of him, of power and grace to keep you from the evil (which is sanctification), to preserve you, and to bring you home. A perfect and just measure weighed out by the triune God to you, **that thy days may be lengthened** (to the length of eternal life) **in the land** (the new heavens and the new earth created by God wherein dwelleth righteousness) **which the LORD thy God giveth thee.** (it is free.)

And that sinner saved by free grace--throws away that fleshly bag with its imperfect weights, and Christ continually constrains us to throw it away...to look out of ourselves, out of this carnal world, to Christ our Righteousness.

When the Lord Jesus said the graves would open and the dead: John 5: 29: And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. Those that have done good are those who have thrown away the bag of deceitful weights and trusted Christ alone.

Illustration: We came here to remember his broken body and his shed blood--

- Believer, as you remember...know that his body was broken because of your sin; his blood was shed to wash away your sin.
- The perfect and just measure of a thrice holy God broke the body of Christ Jesus and shed his blood,
- Because our God is perfect and just, the scales of divine justice say of you, believer, with his stripes you are healed, made the righteousness of God in him

I Corinthians 11: 23: For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24: And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25: After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of me. 26: For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.