LOVE LEADS TO CHANGED BEHAVIOR

Within the covenant structure of Deuteronomy, God first makes clear that salvation is from Him alone, by grace, not through right actions (chapters 1–4). As we fall in love with God, our response of gratitude changes our hearts (chapters 6–11) and ultimately leads us to greater obedience. In Deuteronomy 12–26, Moses describes a life in covenant with God, living out love for Him in every action. These chapters are loosely organized around the order of the Decalogue, with clusters of applications related to and in order of each of the Ten Words, which are universally applicable to all people for all time. I prefer to call these examples Application Laws rather than Civil Laws. Civil Law is not a very helpful category, because the Ten Words can be civil as well as universal. In addition, all of the normally so-called Civil Laws have universal principles that are still applicable to all people at all times, even if we no longer live in a theocracy.

Deuteronomy 14 is in the section on the third Word, relating to taking God’s name in vain. Again, this actually refers to “bearing God’s name,” which means to live so that people will look at us and see that we belong to God. And here is where it gets interesting, because all parts of our lives matter to God, not just the big things. Even what we eat matters to God and shows to the world who we follow (cf. Dan. 1). How we worship also matters to God, not just that we worship Him. Caring for the poor, as well as those who work for God, is a crucial part of living out God’s will. These are not done in order to be saved, but because we are saved!
Write out Deuteronomy 14:2–29 from the Bible translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Deuteronomy 14:2, 3, 21, 22. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

- **Circle** repeated words/ phrases/ideas
- **Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you
- Draw **Arrows** to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Deuteronomy 14:2–29. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How can my diet inspire others to live better, rather than being a burden?

How can I view tithing as a blessing to God and others?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut08-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Where might you be going beyond what God has asked us to do, in order to gain or earn favor with Him?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut08-4
Review your memorized verse from Deuteronomy 14:2–29.

What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

- Leviticus 11:41–47
- Genesis 14:17–20
- Malachi 3:6–12
- Matthew 23:23
- Acts 15:19–31
- Leviticus 20:22–29
- Deuteronomy 12:1–7

What other verses come to mind in connection with Deuteronomy 14?
How can you view your diet and tithing as an act of eating and rejoicing together with God?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Meditate on Deuteronomy 14:2–29 again and look for where Jesus is.
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what are personal lessons you learned?

What are lessons you can apply to the world around you?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/deut08-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What difference does it make to truly understand the foundation of salvation by faith/grace in Deuteronomy as you think about these passages?

How can you eat better so as to inspire others to health and heaven?

How should God’s care for animals impact my heart and my diet?

How can I live out these principles of diet in Scripture without becoming legalistic?

How else can holiness be manifested in the practical areas of life?

In what ways does tithing remind me of where all my money comes from?

How can I use my resources to bless those who are less fortunate?