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Chapter 9. Am I not as free as anyone else? Am I not an apostle? Haven't I seen Jesus our Lord with my own eyes? Isn't it because of my work that you belong to the Lord? Verse 2. Even if others think I am not an apostle, NLT

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I certainly am to you. You yourselves are proof that I am the Lord's apostle. Verse 3. This is my answer to those who question my authority. Verse 4. Don't we have the right to live in your homes and share your meals? Verse 5. Don't we have the right to bring a Christian wife with us

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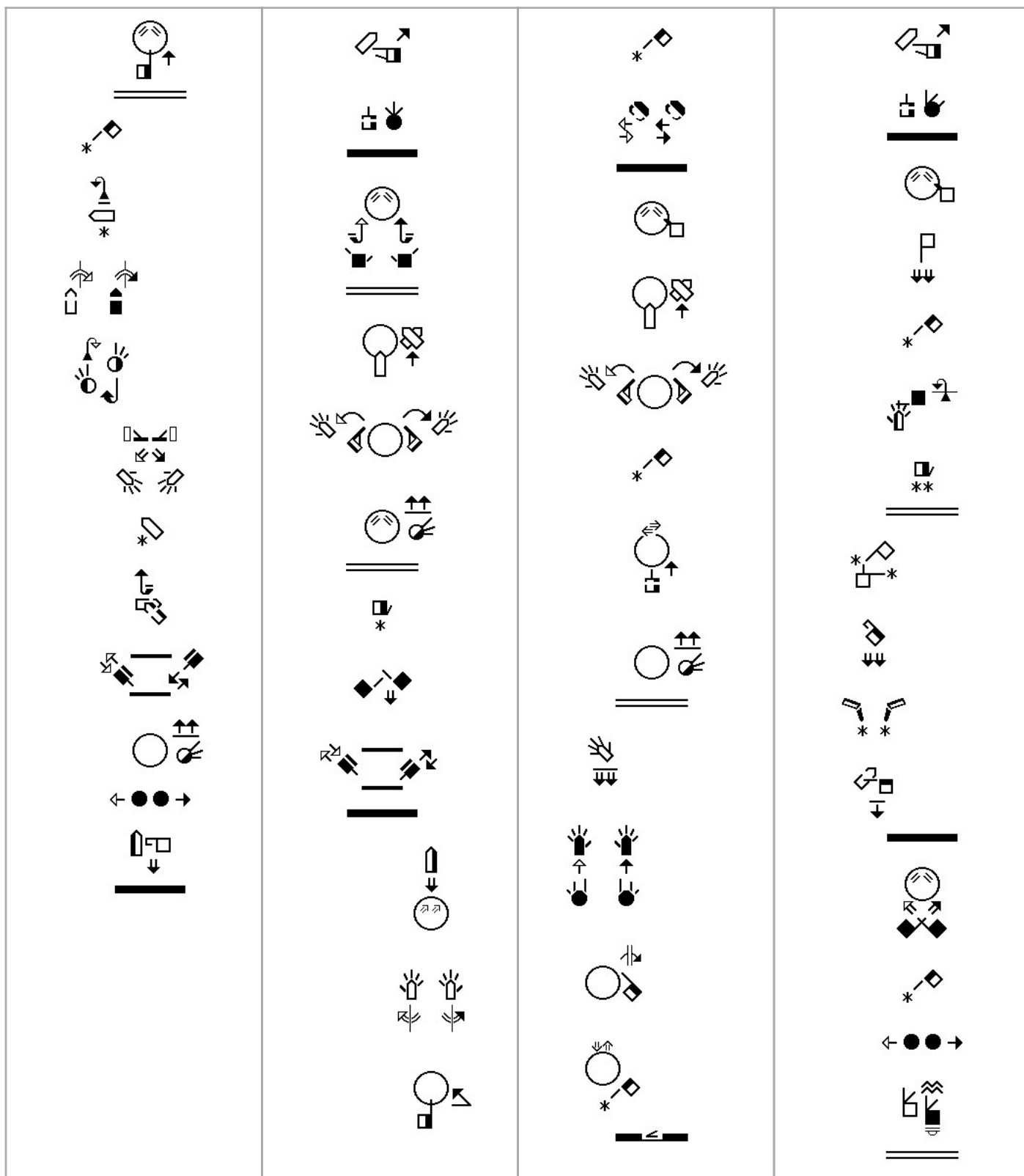
What shepherd cares for a flock of sheep and isn't allowed to drink some of the milk?
 Verse 8. Am I expressing merely a human opinion, or does the law say the same thing?
 Verse 9. For the law of Moses says, "You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as
 it treads out the grain." Was God thinking only about oxen when he said this? NLT

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Verse 12. If you support others who preach to you, shouldn't we have an even greater right to be supported? But we have never used this right. We would rather put up with anything than be an obstacle to the Good News about Christ. Verse 13. Don't you realize that those who work in the temple get their meals from the offerings brought to the temple?

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And those who serve at the altar get a share of the sacrificial offerings. Verse 14. In the same way, the Lord ordered that those who preach the Good News should be supported by those who benefit from it. Verse 15. Yet I have never used any of these rights. And I am not writing this to suggest that I want to start now. NLT



In fact, I would rather die than lose my right to boast about preaching without charge. Verse 16. Yet preaching the Good News is not something I can boast about. I am compelled by God to do it. How terrible for me if I didn't preach the Good News! Verse 17. If I were doing this on my own initiative, I would deserve payment. But I have no choice,

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for God has given me this sacred trust. Verse 18. What then is my pay? It is the opportunity to preach the Good News without charging anyone. That's why I never demand my rights when I preach the Good News. Verse 19. Even though I am a free man with no master, I

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

































































have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. Verse 20. When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law.

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Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. Verse 21. When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ.

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Verse 22. When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. Verse 23. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.

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Verse 24. Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! Verse 25. All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. NLT

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Verse 26. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. Verse 27. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

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