

Financial Peace during Turbulent Times

"Beware the Trap"

Review

Week #1: Living a consumptive lifestyle is like pouring money into a bag with holes.

Week #2: Because of God's role, every financial decision is a spiritual decision.

Week #3: Giving, wise spending and saving make a strong three-fold rope to hang onto during the roller coaster of life.

Introduction: One of the gauges that reveal if we are living a financial life of spirit led contentment or worldly led covetousness is to look at what we owe; our debts. What does the Bible say about debt and how does it affect my relationship with God?

I. **Debt Defined:** Money or property one is obligate to pay to another.

Note: Bills that are paid in full each month are not included (i.e. utility bills).

II. **Debt Diagnosed:** Debt is just a symptom of a deeper problem.

- A. **Greed:** wanting and longing for more
- B. **Self-indulgence:** can't get enough (nothing wrong with what I have, I just want a new one)
- C. **Impatience:** unwilling to wait on God's provision (Phil. 4:19)
- D. **Poor self image:** how will I look, feel and am seen by others
- E. **Lack of self discipline:** based on impulse or emotional decisions
- F. **Addiction** to spending: habit has become a disease (Ecc. 2:10)

Personal Evaluation: When looking at my current debts, which of these causes can I identify?

III. Debt Discouraged: (Deuteronomy 28)

Note: Deuteronomy 28 can be divided by the word but in verse 15.

Vs. 1-14: The benefits of listening to God, focusing our eyes on God and obeying His commandments. (Ps. 32:8)

- A. Result is God's blessings and the command to lend but not to borrow (vs. 12).
- B. Relationship between a lender and a borrower
 - 1. Lender is the head and the borrower is the tail. (vs.13)
 - 2. Lender is above and the borrower is beneath.

Vs. 15-68: The curse of not listening, focusing and obeying God.

- A. Result is God's curse and being in debt to this world's system.
- B. Result is being in debt and serving this world's gods. (Compare vs. 14 to vs. 36)

Note: Satan's plan is for us to be in debt and servant to the lender instead of being free to serve God. (Prov. 22:7, I Cor. 7:23)

Five Things to Know About Debt

- 1) A Christian always pays their debts. (Ps. 37:21)
- 2) How are we to payoff our debt? ASAP (Prov. 3:27-28)
- 3) Debt is an alluring trap: easy to get into but expensive to get out. (Luke 14:28)
- 4) Debt spends future income. (James 4:13-14)
- 5) Borrowing from this world denies God the opportunity to provide.

BOTTOM LINE: *Debt competes with God for the mastery of my life. (Matt. 6:24)*

Note: When my out go exceeds my income, my upkeep will become my downfall.

Action Plan:

- 1) Memory verse: Proverbs 22:7
- 2) Read pages 26-28 and complete form #3.