

UNCERTAINTY
Danger: Debt
March 14 &15, 2009

MYTH: Debt is expected and unavoidable.

There are several kinds of debt:

- Home
- Education
- Mortgage
- Auto
- CREDIT CARD

All can be dangerous but credit card debt produces uncertainty more than all of them.

How can debt be dangerous?

1. We deny God the opportunity to teach us.

“ but your Father already knows your needs.” Luke 12 chapter, verses 30 (795)

Enjoy prosperity while you can. But when hard times strike, realize that both come from God. That way you will realize that nothing is certain in this life.

Ecclesiastes chapter 7, verse 14 (508)

- I rely on my credit card rather than God.
- When we invite God into our need we can avoid debt.
- God loves to provide what we need but we need to let him!

2. Debt can undermine my peace & joy.

For the love of money is at the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

1 Timothy chapter 6, verse 10 (913)

“For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

Matthew chapter 11, verse 30 (345)

- “I want to be able to sleep at night”
- “I want to stop arguing about money”
- “I don’t want to live with fear”

3. Debt enslaves a person to a creditor & obligates them to earning pressures.

Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender.

Proverbs chapter 22, verse 7 (496)

- *“No one can serve two masters.”* Matthew chapter 6, verse 24 (823)
- Debt will rob you of your time not just your money.
- It’s ok to possess things but it’s not ok for things to possess you.

4. Debt fosters envy & greed.

Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much we own.” Luke chapter 12, verse 15 (795)

- Don’t compare yourself to others.
- There will always be someone who has it “better”.
- Be happy for others when God blesses them.

5. Debt erodes my ability to give.

"Give generously"! 2 Corinthians chapter 9 (887)

- We were created to give!
- We are never more like God than when we are giving.
- I can't give if I don't control my spending.

6. Debt can damage my Christian reputation.

The wicked borrow and never repay, but the godly are generous givers.

Psalm chapter 37, verse 21 (456)

- ✓ My integrity is important to God and will influence others.
- ✓ How I handle my money will impact what others think about Jesus.

Ask God for Contentment.

Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. Philippians chapter 4, verses 11-12 (901)

- Contentment is learned.
- Contentment = Not being driven by wanting more.
- Distinguish between needs and wants.
- Gratefulness and Contentment are inseparable.
- *Enjoy what you have rather than desiring what you don't have. Just dreaming about nice things is meaningless; it is like chasing the wind.* Ecclesiastes chapter 6, verse 9 (508)

Don't give up your freedom for anything!

You were running the race so well. Who has held you back from following the truth? It certainly isn't God, for he is the one who called you to freedom. Galatians chapter 5, verses 7-8 (893)

- Acknowledge that debt can be a spiritual issue.
- If God can transform your spiritual life he can certainly transform your financial life.
- *"I can do all things through Christ..."* Philippians chapter 4, verse 13 (878)

Tips on credit card Use

1. Use credit cards only for budgeted items.
2. Pay the balance in full every month.
3. If you violate rule 1 or 2 perform plastic surgery (cut up your cards)

Tips on debt reduction

1. Pay off your smallest debt first.
2. As debt is repaid, roll the amount you were paying to the next largest debt's monthly payment.
3. Incur no new debt.

Sign up for the Goodsense Money Class on Saturday April 4th- 9am -2pm

Next Weekend- Baptism & Communion