

The Debt Trap

UNDERSTANDING DEBT

All Debts Aren't Created Equal

Luke 10:35 Romans 13:8 Proverbs 22:7 & Matthew 6:24

FOUR DANGEROUS PINHOLES THAT WILL SINK YOUR FINANCIAL SHIP

- (1) A lack of **CONTENTMENT**
Proverbs 21:17 Philippians 4:11-13

- (2) **IMPULSE** buying
Proverbs 21:5 Proverbs 14:15 Proverbs 28:20 Luke 14:28-33

- (3) **PRETENDING**
Proverbs 12:9 Proverbs 13:7

- (4) **CO-SIGNING**
Proverbs 6:1-5 Proverbs 11:15 Proverbs 17:18

CLIMBING OUT

- (1) Trust the **MASTER**, not **MasterCard**.
Matthew 6:31-33 Philippians 4:11-13

- (2) Build small islands of **GENEROSITY** in your sea of **DEBT**.
Proverbs 11:25 Proverbs 3:9-10

- (3) Work **HARDER** or **LONGER**.
Proverbs 10:4 Proverbs 14:23 Exodus 20:8-11

- (4) Pay off the **MAXIMUM**, not the **MINIMUM**.

Food for Thought

For the week of July 26, 2015

(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

1. This week we heard there are six warning signs indicating someone is heading towards the “Debt Trap.” As you read through the following warning signs, rate how you are doing in each trap from 1-5, with 1 being “I’m in danger” to 5 being “I’m doing great in this area.”

Warning Signs:

- 1) I don’t know how much I owe
- 2) I pay the minimum due on my credit cards
- 3) I miss payments or bounce checks
- 4) I use credit card debt to pay for my basic “needs”
- 5) I have steadily increasing debt
- 6) I’m robbing God

2. Larry mentioned contentment is something we learn not something we can buy, and he referenced Philippians 4:11-13. Reread the passage and answer the following questions:

Philippians 4:11-13

¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength. *[NIV]*

What challenges your contentment the most (e.g. house, job, relationship, savings, etc.)?

How have you seen your contentment change when “living in plenty” and “living in want”?

3. For most of us, money or the lack of it touches on some of our biggest fears. This can lead to anxiety, holding on to money, and decreased generosity. How could the following verses help someone who’s struggling with contentment over their financial situation?

1 Timothy 6:6

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. *[NIV]*

Hebrews 13:5

⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.” *[NIV]*

Luke 12:13-21

The Parable of the Rich Fool

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?”¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’”

18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. **19** And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

21 "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

[NIV]

How would life look different for you in the next few weeks or months if you were to put the above verses into action?

SEEKING GODLY WISDOM / Proverbs Daily Reading Plan:

Read the chapter that corresponds to the day of the month and consider these questions:

- ⇒ What applies to me today?
- ⇒ Where have I seen this in others?
- ⇒ Where have I experienced this?

Go to this link for more info: <http://www.northcoastchurch.com/proverbs-reading-plan>