



On Staying Invested Eternally: Strive to be Debt-Free

The concept of lending and borrowing is as old as history and goes back to ancient Israel. There are passages in the Old Testament that regulate them.

1. The Israelites were prohibited from charging interest to their fellow Israelites who were poor or were in need. (Ex. 22:25)
2. Every seventh year, all debts are cancelled. (Deut. 15:1-2)
3. There is a warning against acting as surety for another. (Prov. 6:1-3)
4. The taking of collateral must be marked by mercy: (Deut. 24:10-11)

There are three things that the Bible teaches about debt.

1. The Bible does not absolutely prohibit borrowing but it warns about the dangers of debt. (Proverbs 22:7)

In 2 Kings 4 we read about a widow who sought the help of the prophet Elisha because her husband had died and her creditors were going to take away her two sons to make them slaves. God provided miraculously for this widow but Elisha told her explicitly to pay her debts otherwise she and her children would have to give themselves up as slaves to the lender.

Prov. 22:7 warns about the **dangers of debt**. In the OT time, if a borrower fails to pay, the creditor can take that person and his/her children to become slaves of the lender. A debtor is legally obligated to service his debt and as a result, has limited future options. **Strive to be set free from debt because of its dangers.**

2. The Bible extols being debt-free. (Deuteronomy 28:12)

We read in the Old Testament that being free from borrowing is a manifestation of God's blessing. In Deuteronomy 28:11-13 the Israelites were told that if they were careful to obey what the Lord had commanded them, they will be blessed – the Lord would send rain at the proper time and would bless all the work that they do. Because their fields would yield bountiful harvest, they would never need to borrow.

3. The Bible teaches that we must pay our debts. (Romans 13:7-8; Psalm 37:2).

The passage in Romans 13:8 does not prohibit borrowing, instead it teaches us that we must pay anything that we owe. "The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives, for those blessed by the Lord shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off." Psalm 37:21 – 22 serves as admonition for those who do not pay. **In light of these, strive to be debt free!**

How do we get out of debt? Or, how do we stay out of debt? Consider the following practical steps as we strive to be debt free:

1. *Be careful that you do not purchase things you could not afford.* The bible says – "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." (James 1:5, NIV)
2. *Spend less than what you earn.* If you are married, be accountable to your spouse.
3. *Save and invest wisely to meet unexpected needs like sickness or lay off in the future.* The bible says - "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest" (Prov. 6:6-8, NIV).
4. *Discuss financial matters with your spouse and consider the biblical principles that you have learned from our sermon series when making financial decisions.* Will you be glorifying the Lord in the financial decision you are making? This will guide and protect you from making unwise financial decisions that could lead to financial ruin and debt. (James 1:5-6)
5. *Learn basic financial planning.* This includes preparing a simple budget and sticking to it.
6. *Flee from get rich quick schemes.* The bible says: "Those who work their land will have abundant food but those who chase fantasies will have their fill of poverty. A faithful person will be richly blessed but one eager to get rich will not go

On Staying Invested Eternally: Strive to be Debt-Free (continued)

unpunished." (Prov. 28:19-20, NIV)

7. Check if your intended purchase is based on need or want and stay clear from impulsive behavior. Stay away from places that might trigger your buying compulsion.
8. If you need to borrow for legitimate reasons, exercise caution and make sure you have the ability to repay.

Reflections:

While there may be legitimate reasons why we resort to borrowing, we really need to examine our motivation. If we are living beyond our means and incurring debt in the process, this may be a manifestation of a discontented heart. It may also reflect a heart that is drawn to love of money or possessions. I encourage all of us to live the biblical truths that we have learned in our sermon series. As we do so, I am confident that doing so will lessen, if not, eradicate our dependence on borrowing and being in debt.

May we continually seek the Lord and obey all that we have learned so far from His Word through our sermon series that we might become a people free from financial bondage and able to freely serve the King of kings and Lord of lords until he comes! Amen.

Review (Knowledge):

Please take a few minutes to read the summary above. What is the highlight of last Sunday's sermon for you and why?

Sharing/Discussion (Practical Wisdom):

1. Read 2 Kings 4:1-7. Describe the situation of the widow. How did she deal with her trouble?
2. What can you learn from the widow's actions in relation to your debt situation?
3. How did God deal with her? What action was required after God's provision?
4. What are some practical ways to lower your debt level?
5. How will being content and fleeing from the love of money keep us from debt?

Prayer (Take time to pray for one another.)

God's Way to Heaven

1. **GOD LOVES YOU** and wants you to have **eternal life** with **Him**.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

But most people aren't experiencing a meaningful life and aren't sure that they have eternal life because...

2. Man has a **SIN problem** which **SEPARATES** him from **GOD**. Every one has sinned.

Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

3. The **good news** is that **JESUS CHRIST** is God's **solution** to your sin problem. He is the **ONLY way** to heaven.

1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also died for sins once and for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God..."

4. Therefore you must **REPENT** of your sins and place your **FAITH** in **JESUS alone** to save you.

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the GIFT OF GOD; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

5. Upon believing and receiving Jesus, you have a **NEW LIFE** with complete assurance of **SALVATION**.

1 John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."



WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00 AM – 12:00 NN
700 ROYAL AVE.

ADDRESS

32855 HARWOOD CR.
ABBOTSFORD, BC V2S7A6

CONTACT US

(778) 255-5777
CONTACT@CCFVANCOUVER.ORG

SOCIAL MEDIA

CCFVANCOUVER.ORG
 CCF VANCOUVER