

Please Silence All Cell Phones



Worship in Song

Jesus Set Me Free I'm so glad Jesus set me free. I'm so glad Jesus set me free. I'm so glad Jesus set me free. Singing glory hallelujah Jesus set me free.

Satan had me bound, but Jesus set me free. Satan had me bound, but Jesus set me free. Satan had me bound, but Jesus set me free. Singing glory hallelujah Jesus set me free.

Praise His name, Jesus set me free. Praise His name, Jesus set me free. Praise His name, Jesus set me free. Singing glory hallelujah Jesus set me free.

I'm so glad Jesus set me free. I'm so glad Jesus set me free. I'm so glad Jesus set me free. Singing glory hallelujah Jesus set me free.



What A Mighty God We Serve What a mighty God we serve What a mighty God we serve Angels bow before Him Heaven and Earth adore Him What a mighty God we serve

What a loving God we serve What a loving God we serve Mercy like a river Flows to us forever What a loving God we serve

What a mighty God we serve What a mighty God we serve Awesome in His power Worthy of all honor What a mighty God we serve



Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God And His righteousness And all these things Shall be added unto you Allelu alleluia

Man shall not live by bread alone But by ev'ry word that proceeds From the mouth of God Allelu alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you Seek and ye shall find Knock and the door shall be opened unto you Allelu alleluia



God Will Make A Way

God will make a way Where there seems to be no way He works in ways we cannot see He will make a way for me

He will be my guide Hold me closely to His side With love and strength For each new day He will make a way He will make a way

By a roadway in the wilderness He'll lead me And rivers in the desert will I see Heaven and earth will fade But His Word will still remain He will do something new today

God will make a way Where there seems to be no way He works in ways we cannot see He will make a way for me

He will be my guide Hold me closely to His side With love and strength For each new day He will make a way He will make a way



ANNOUNCEMENTS

and

GREETING

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Good morning Have you ever seen one of these? Where have you seen something like this? Usually we'd see a mat like this outside the door to our home, wouldn't we? A mat such as this usually has two purposes. Do you know what those two purposes are?



WORSHIP THE LORD WITH TITHES & OFFERINGS

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom

all blessings flow:

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heav' nly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

A-men



Worship in Song

Trust Try Prove Me

Bring ye all the tithes Into the storehouse All your money talents time and love Consecrate them all upon the altar While your Savior from above speaks sweetly

Trust Me try Me Prove Me saith the Lord of hosts and see if a blessing Unmeasured blessing I will not pour out on thee When my wavering faith in trials falter When His guiding hand I cannot see Then in wondrous love and tender mercy Through His Word He says to me My child just

Trust Me try Me Prove Me saith the Lord of hosts and see if a blessing Unmeasured blessing I will not pour out on thee

I have yielded Him my life forever All I am or have or hope to be Naught on earth my hold on Him can sever While I hear Him say to me My child just

Trust Me try Me Prove Me saith the Lord of hosts and see if a blessing Unmeasured blessing I will not pour out on thee



Count Your Blessings

When upon life's billows You are tempest tossed When you are discouraged Thinking all is lost Count your many blessings Name them one by one And it will surprise you What the Lord hath done

Count your blessings Name them one by one Count your blessings See what God hath done Count your blessings Name them one by one Count your many blessings See what God hath done

Are you ever burdened With a load of care Does the cross seem heavy You are called to bear Count your many blessings Every doubt will fly And you will be singing As the days go by

Count your blessings Name them one by one Count your blessings See what God hath done Count your blessings Name them one by one Count your many blessings See what God hath done

When you look at others With their lands and gold Think that Christ has promised You His wealth untold Count your many blessings Money cannot buy Your reward in heaven Nor your home on high

Count your blessings Name them one by one Count your blessings See what God hath done Count your blessings Name them one by one Count your many blessings See what God hath done

So amid the conflict Whether great or small Do not be discouraged God is over all Count your many blessings Angels will attend Help and comfort give you To your journey's end

Count your blessings Name them one by one Count your blessings See what God hath done Count your blessings Name them one by one Count your many blessings See what God hath done



Lord Be Glorified

In my life Lord Be glorified be glorified In my life Lord Be glorified today

In my song Lord Be glorified be glorified In my song Lord Be glorified today

In Your church Lord Be glorified be glorified In Your church Lord Be glorified today



Make Me A Servant

Make me a servant humble and meek Lord let me lift up those who are weak

And may the prayer of my heart always be Make me a servant make me a servant Make me a servant today

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WORSHIP THE LORD IN HIS WORD

Living Wisely
In A Foolish World

How To Get/Stay Out
Of Debt

Proverbs 13:18;

Please open your Bibles and read along with me:



Proverbs 13:18 "Poverty and disgrace come to him who ignores instruction, but Whoever heeds reproof is honored." (ESV)

INTRODUCTION:

One of the biggest problems in America is personal debt.

The average household owes than \$7,149 on credit cards alone.

http://www.nerdwallet.com/

Current as of July 2013

Average credit card debt: \$15,325

Average mortgage debt: \$147,924

Average student loan debt: \$32,041

Based on an analysis of Federal Reserve statistics and other government data, the average household owes \$7,149 on their cards; looking only at indebted households, the average outstanding balance rises to \$15,325.

Regardless of income, the typical American family lives from payday to payday.

Most American families spend more than they earn, 125% on average.

Why?

P. T. Barnum once said, "Money is in some respects like fire; it is a very excellent servant but a terrible master."

Many people's finances are like a fire out of control.

Putting out this "financial fire" requires knowing how we get into debt and how we can get out of debt.

I. How We Get into Debt -

There are two primary reasons we get into debt.

I call them "debt demons."

A. Debt demon #1:

Credit Cards.

From pastoring more than thirtyfive years, I have seen this financial "demon" break up more families and cause more pain than drugs or alcohol.

Jesus said if we intend to build a tower, we should first do what?

Luke 14:28 "For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?" (ESV)

Let's count the cost of credit cards.

Suppose you owe \$15,325 on all your credit cards.

You make a monthly payment of \$310.00 (which is more than most required minimum payments) at 9% APR interest.

Even if you stop using the credit cards, it will take you over 62 months (5 years +) to pay off the \$15,325.00 and you will pay a total of \$19,530.00

You pay \$4205.00 in interest alone.

Those items you bought on sale with your credit card end up

costing you 25% more and probably need to be replaced by the time you get them paid for.

Now, you can see why the average American family gets eight (ATE) credit card offers a month.

A hidden *cost* of credit cards is impulse buying.

Studies have shown we spend 30% more when using a credit card as opposed to cash.

Buying with cash requires discipline in following financial principles.

What does Proverbs 13:18 say happens when we ignore instruction or discipline?

Proverbs 13:18 "Poverty and disgrace come to him who ignores instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is honored." (ESV)

Credit cards are a "debt demon" because we can keep spending even when we are out of money.

B. Debt demon #2:

AUTOMOBILES - CARS!

Too many people believe the myth: "You are what you drive."

Most people buy an automobile based on want, not need.

The average new automobile loses about 20% in value the moment you drive it off the lot because it becomes a used car.

This means, if the car costs \$30,000, it depreciates \$6,000 when you sign on the dotted line.

Moreover, it will depreciate about an additional 10% during the next twelve months for a total of about 30% during the first year you own it.

So, you can lose \$9,000 or more the first year you own a new automobile.

Pride causes people to want to drive a really nice, new automobile.

However, we need to remember the truth found in...

Proverbs 29:23 "One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor." (ESV)

One car salesman told me it was not uncommon for people to come in with a very good two-year-old car on which they owe ten or twelve thousand dollars more than it's worth.

However, they still want to buy a new car as long as the monthly payments are close to the same amount, no matter how long they have to make payments.

Because of pride, such buyers obviously have not sat down and counted the cost.

We've talked about how we get into debt because of two debt demons -

credit cards and cars.

Now let's talk about...

II. How We Can Get Out of Debt.

A. Get rid of all credit cards.

To get out of debt you must stop charging further into debt.

Perform "plastic surgery" by cutting each credit card into twelve pieces, one for each painful monthly payment.

If you must have one credit card for emergency reasons, put it in a metal can, fill the can with water, and place it in the freezer.

Why a metal can you may ask?

So you can't thaw it out quickly in your microwave.

Having to wait for it to thaw will help prevent impulse buying.

After credit card withdrawal, which takes about six months, you will wonder how you could have ever been so foolish to use the cards in the first place.

Anytime you think about using a credit card you can't pay off each month, you need to remember the financial principle in...

Proverbs 21:20 "Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling, but a foolish man devours it." (ESV)

If we are fools to spend all we have, what are we if we spend more than we have?

We're really super foolish.

Once you stop charging, start with the smallest credit card bill, pay off the balance, and then apply that amount to the next smallest credit card debt.

Each time you pay off a credit card, you will have a great sense of victory that will motivate you to keep paying them off.

Don't try to pay a little extra on each card; pick one and pay it off as soon as possible (CUT UP THE CARD AND CANCEL THE ACCOUNT) and then use that payment to pay off another one.

B. Plan your spending.

This means you know where your money is going and you have a plan to make it go as far as possible.

Such a plan is traditionally called a "budget," but I have a better name, "a get-out-of-debt plan." If you have a computer, get a program like Quicken or Microsoft Money' to help you plan more effectively.

I believe that one of these programs could be a great planning tool and a great investment.

You should plan your spending because of the facts found in...

Proverbs 21:5 "The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty." (ESV)

Previously we talked about laziness.

Most people are head-overheels in debt because they are too lazy to diligently plan their spending.

C. Never borrow money for depreciating items.

Have you heard the saying, "If the shoe fits, charge it."?

Depreciating items are clothes, TV's, furniture, or anything that decreases in value.

I believe that it is ok to borrow money for a car, as long as you don't finance it for over three years and be doubly careful about buying a new one.

If you finance an automobile for more than three years, you are probably buying a car you can't afford.

Keep the car two or three years after it's paid for and continue putting the payments in the bank toward the purchase of your next vehicle.

After using this system for two or three cars, you will be able to pay cash for a car.

It's ok to borrow money for a home or a business because they usually appreciate.

If something appreciates and you have a financial reverse, you can probably sell it and pay off the debt.

Nothing will improve until we put forth the effort and make the necessary changes.

You can't do that with depreciating items.

It's also ok to borrow money for an education if there is no other way. Because it's an investment that will pay off for the rest of your life.

However, before going into debt, you need to remember the fact found in...

Psalms 37:21 "The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous showeth mercy, and giveth."

This means it is wickedness not to pay everything we owe.

It is a serious matter for Christians to go into debt.

D. Be content with what you have.

If you aren't content with what you have, you will not be content with what you get!!!

Ecclesiastes 5:10 reminds us of this fact.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity."

Of course you should have goals and ambitions.

You should try to better yourself financially.

Contentment means you enjoy what you have now.

God wants you to enjoy what you have:

Ecclesiastes 5:19 "Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God."

And you can't do that if you are over your head in debt.

E. Give back to God.

If you want God to bless your finances, you must be faithful in what God says about your finances.

Proverbs 3:9 "Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the <u>firstfruits</u> of all thine increase:"

You cannot do that while having to pay the DEVILS tithe.

Then, what does the next verse tell us?

Proverbs 3:10 "then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine." (ESV)

How much should we give back to God?

Jesus said:

Luke 11:42 "But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others." (ESV)

I Believe the Bible teaches we are to give back at least 10% to God.

Malachi 3:8 "Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions." (ESV)

"These you ought to have done..."

If we are not doing that, we rob

God.

What is the difference between robbery and stealing?

Stealing is taking something that belongs to someone else when they are not around.

The dictionary defines robbery as:

"The taking of <u>personal property</u> in the possession or immediate presence of another." (GOD)

When we don't tithe, we are not stealing from God; the Bible says we rob God because we take His money while He is looking at us.

You may say, "I'm so far in debt I can't afford to tithe."

But you can't afford not to if you want God's help in getting out of debt.

This is because of the words of Jesus recorded in...

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (ESV)

Jesus also said:

Luke 16:11-13 "If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."(ESV)

That means God has chosen money as a way to test your faithfulness to Him.

Malachi 3:10-11 "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts." (ESV)

Remember KING SAUL??

1 Samuel 15:22 "And Samuel said, Hath Jehovah as great delight in burnt-offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of Jehovah? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as idolatry and teraphim. Because thou hast rejected the word of Jehovah, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

Conclusion:

More than anything else, how you handle your money reveals what you really think of God and His Word, the Bible.

What does the way you handle your money say about you?????

- Getting out of debt requires...
- You get rid of credit cards;
- You plan your spending;
- You never borrow money for depreciating items;
- You be content with what you have;
- And you obediently give back to God as He says in His WORD.

Romans 10:9-10 "because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." (ESV)

Worship in Song

Only Trust Him

Come every soul by sin oppressed There's mercy with the Lord And He will surely give you rest By trusting in His word

For Jesus shed His precious blood Rich blessings to bestow Plunge now into the crimson flood That washes white as snow

Yes Jesus is the Truth the Way That leads you into rest Believe in Him without delay And you are fully blest

Come then and join this holy band And on to glory go To dwell in that celestial land Where joys immortal flow

Benediction & Fellowship