

God's Perspective on Money

Session 2: God's Perspective on Debt & the Importance of Saving

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Key Biblical Principle:

God warns of the dangers of debt and God admonishes us to save for future needs.



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▶ Seven Key points:

1. If You Borrow Money, God Says You Must Pay It Back

Psalm 37:21 states, "*The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously.*"

- ▶ "*Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.*" (Romans 13:5)

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2. Be Careful, If You Borrow Money You May Become a Servant to the Lender

Proverbs 22:7 states, "*The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.*"



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3. Borrowing Presumes On the Future

"Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." (James 4:13-15)

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3. Borrowing Presumes On the Future

Because only God knows the future ([Genesis 41:25-57](#), [Isaiah 46:10](#)), it is absolutely critical that you spend quality time with the Lord in prayer, to determine if it is God's will for you to borrow money.

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27)

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4. God Promises to Meet Our Needs

In **Matthew 6:31–33** Jesus Christ said: *"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**"*

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4. God Promises to Meet Our Needs

Practical advice – learn to be content with God's provision. The apostle Paul said:

***"for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 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. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."** (Philippians 4:11–13)*

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5. God Promised the People of Israel That If They Fully Obeyed Him That They Would Be Lenders & Not Borrowers

"If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all His commands I give you today... The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of His bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none."

(Deuteronomy 28:1, 12)

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"However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you... The alien who lives among you will rise above you higher and higher, but you will sink lower and lower. He will lend to you, but you will not lend to him."

(Deuteronomy 28: 15, 43,44).



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6. Every reference in the Bible to borrowing is negative



and the pattern throughout Scripture is for God to meet needs with no debt.

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7. In Scripture, God met needs without the assistance of a lender. Here's a few examples:

"When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything.

But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

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"When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken" (Luke 5:4-9)

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Question: In order for Simon Peter to be blessed by the Lord, what aspects of his life had to be in order? Provide a reference to scripture.

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Can you think of other examples in the Bible where God met needs without the assistance of a lender?

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7. In Scripture, God met needs:

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In short, God can meet your needs without debt.

The pattern in scripture is for God to provide with no debt. The pattern of this world is to rely on debt.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9)

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Summary

Biblical Perspective

- ▶ Minimum debt or no debt

Worldly Perspective

- ▶ Use debt freely which results in lots of debt

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The Importance of Saving

1. The Wise Person saves for Future Needs

"The wise man saves for the future but the foolish man spends whatever he gets."
(Proverbs 21:20 TLB)



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The Importance of Saving

2. Jesus Christ Admonishes Us to Plan for Future Expenditures, Which Necessitates Saving

*"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and **estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?** For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'"*
(Luke 14:28-30)



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The Importance of Saving

3. The Wise Man Has Some Savings

"In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has."
(Prov 21:20 NIV)



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4. God's Perspective – Save for Future Needs As Opposed to the World's Perspective – Buy Now and Pay Later.

Since God is in control: *"The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His sovereignty rules over all."* (Ps 103:19 NASB & 1 Chronicles 29: 11–13)

And since God [not the bank or credit card company], has promised to meet our needs as we put Him first.

"And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:19)

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Is it not reasonable then, for Christians to trust God to meet their needs rather than relying on credit cards, personal lines of credit, and other loans?

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5–6 NKJV)

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Summary

Biblical Perspective

- ▶ Save regularly for future needs and be content with God's provision and timing

Worldly Perspective

- ▶ “Buy now and pay later” or “use other people’s money”.

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Common Real-life Examples-

A Biblical Approach by “Mr. Wise” versus
A Worldly Approach by “Mr. Unwise”

▶ “Mr. Wise”

1. Is in the habit of saving for future needs.
2. Generally buys only what he needs.
3. Saved for education costs and completes college or university with little or no debt.
4. Drives a used car with no debt.
5. Saves a significant down payment for a home and pays down mortgage ASAP.
6. Buys furniture [sometimes used] for cash.
7. Lives within a budget.
8. Uses a credit card carefully , pays it off each month and incurs no interest charges.

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Common Real-life Examples-

A Biblical Approach by “Mr. Right” versus
A Worldly Approach by “Mr. Wrong”

▶ “Mr. Unwise”

1. Generally never saves, just borrows and buys.
2. Makes financial decisions based upon personal desires or “gut feel”, not needs.
3. Completes post secondary with a lot of debt.
4. Finances the purchase of a new car every 3 to 4 years.
5. Buys home with very little down payment.
6. Furnishes home with debt.
7. Has no budget.
8. Generally runs a balance on his credit cards.

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Recommended Memory Verses for this session:

- ▶ *"The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender."*
(Proverbs 22:7)
- ▶ *"The wise man saves for the future but the foolish man spends whatever he gets."*
(Proverbs 21:20 TLB)

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Case Study

Len and Rachel are Christians. Len works full time and earns a below-average income while Rachel stays at home with their three children. With one modest income, their personal cash flow is very tight. Nevertheless, in faith they regularly give the first 10 percent to God's work. They budget carefully, regularly study what the Bible says on finances, and read helpful Christian books by authors such as Larry Burkett, Howard Dayton, and Ron Blue.

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Len and Rachel habitually pray and seek God's wisdom and direction as to how they should use the money that God has entrusted to them. They incorporate God's plan within their monthly budget and clearly set aside funds for future needs such as annual expenditures (e.g., insurance, repairs, vacation) and longer-term needs such as automobile replacement, their children's education, and retirement. These were their habits for many years.

Over the years, they applied any surplus funds against their mortgage and by their mid-50s they were totally debt free.

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They often reflect on the many times during their marriage that God provided a need via "a mini miracle." For example, even though they saved regularly for automobile replacement, on one occasion, as they prayerfully asked God for his wisdom with respect to an automobile purchase, God provided an automobile at absolutely no cost from a member in their church (a gift).

All three of their children have now completed university with no debt. Len and Rachel assisted by saving and investing monthly since the day each child was born, but they also trained their children to save as much as they could for their education from their part-time jobs.

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They praise God for his many blessings. They acknowledge that many times God met their needs in unusual ways as they prayed and waited upon the Lord. They did not use credit even though it was readily available.

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Questions:

1. What Biblical financial principles did Len and Rachel follow? Please list them below and provide a reference to Scripture if you can.

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Questions:

2. Do you think that Len and Rachel's relationship with God and their understanding of God's Word on finances impacted the way they managed money? Please explain your answer.

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Questions:

3. What impact do you think Len and Rachel's management of money will have on their three children?

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Questions:

4. What if God called one of the children of Len and Rachel into full-time ministry? Please explain your answer.

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