



February 27 & 28: It's About Bondage

Overview

We've been hearing about companies receiving a bailout, but we're going to receive something better than a bailout. We're going BEYOND to follow God's plan for money management. We will learn how God wants to prosper you ... we'll learn how to get out of debt ... and who caused your financial problems. But, we will also discover how to solve those problems and how to excel when it comes to finances.



Take a second look ... Sermon Summary

BEYOND Bailout is not about your pastor bailing you out ... or the government. It's about managing your finances God's way. And God's Word tells us that one of our biggest problems regarding money is debt. Whenever possible avoid the deceitfulness of debt.

Deuteronomy 28:12-14, ¹²The 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. ¹³The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. ¹⁴Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.

God wants us to be lenders, not borrowers. Too many Christians are seriously in debt.

Eight statements about debt:

1. Debt affects our attitude.

If you are not in debt and the government raises taxes, you won't panic. If you are not in debt and the church says, "We have huge needs," you won't be disturbed. But if you are in debt and the government raises taxes or the church needs major funds, you will go into panic mode and say, "All the church talks about is money."

2. Debt is not forbidden.

In *Deuteronomy 15:2*, the Israelites loaned to other Israelites, but every seven years all debts were canceled. The only debts not canceled were those loaned to foreigners and outsiders. While debt is not forbidden, the Bible does discourage charging interest.

Deuteronomy 23:19-20; Exodus 22:25; Leviticus 25:35-36; Matthew 5:42

3. Debt is discouraged.

Proverbs 22:7; Romans 13:8

4. Co-signing is discouraged but not forbidden.

Proverbs 11:15; 17:18

5. Debts longest term was seven years.

Deuteronomy 15:1

6. Become debt-free as soon as possible.

7. Jesus endorsed banks in order to gain wealth.

Jesus spoke of honest leverage. *Matthew 25:27-29*

8. God wants you to be a lender, not a borrower.

Psalms 37:21, 25-26

Definitions of debt:

1. Dumb Explanation (for) Buying Things

2. Don't Even Buy That

Are you ready to give your life, including your finances, to God?



Take it to the source ... Bible Study

Introductory question: When is the first time that you can remember borrowing money to buy something? What did you buy?

Read Deuteronomy 28:12-14.

1. What role does obedience have in bringing God's blessings into our lives? Why is this such an important part of life with God?
2. Have you ever been guilty of expecting God's blessings, even when you were not walking according to His ways?
3. Why is doing good so that God will do good to you a wrong motivation?
4. Can you recall a time when God's presence was obviously with you in the midst of financial difficulties? How did God show His goodness to you?

Read Proverbs 22:7; Romans 13:8.

1. Would you agree that debt is a form of bondage? Why or why not?
2. Do you consider yourself a servant to the people or institutions that you are in debt to? Why or why not?
3. Why should we be indebted to love other people? What makes love such an important quality?
4. How can being free from financial debt make it easier to follow God's leading in whatever work He might have for us?

Read Psalm 37:21-26.

1. What is the significance of those who are *righteous* in these verses?
2. What is the connection between righteousness and generosity? Why do you think these two things go together?
3. Can you find at least three promises for the person who faithfully follows God's ways in these verses?

Read Philippians 4:19.

1. What does this verse mean to you today in our culture and economic climate?
2. What is the balance between doing our part while God does His part?
3. If you have trouble trusting God, what practical steps can you take to trust Him more and give Him greater control of your finances and your life?



Take it home ... Practical Applications

1. Make the irrevocable commitment to God and to yourself that you're going to get out of debt.
2. Don't take on any more debt.
3. Put God first in your giving.
4. Develop a written plan.
5. Set an attainable time frame to get out of debt.
6. Adjust your lifestyle.



Sermons are just a click away! Watch or listen to sermons online @ ConnectionPointeChurch.org.

All Bible references are from the New International Version unless otherwise stated.

© Connection Pointe Christian Church 2010