

## "BACK IN THE BLACK"

Balanced: Gaining & Maintaining Financial Stability, Part 3  
November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009

### Three Laws of Physical Balance

**Law 1: You must have the proper reference point**

You must have an accounting system to know where your money is going

**Law 3: You must have a clear objective**

Everything belongs to God; everything comes from God; everything is distributed by God as He sees fit

Our overall financial objective is to honor God – not with a percentage but with everything

**Law 2: You must make constant adjustments**

### What God Says About Debt

When it comes to how we manage money, all of us are impacted by our family

We either tend to follow the example of our parents or go the opposite direction

If you came from a home where money was never discussed, you probably entered adulthood thinking, "If I'm smart enough to make money, I'm smart enough to manage it." - Wrong

There are two ways to upgrade your standard of living: a. save & invest & work your way up; b. go in debt - which is only a signature away

1. Deuteronomy 28:12 (NIV) "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."

The biblical perspective is when a person is in a position to have to borrow, things are not going well with them

2. Proverbs 22:7 (RSV) "The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender."

God wants you to be free to follow Him, but you can't do that if you continue in slavery and in bondage to credit card companies and whoever else you owe money to

We purchase and consume ourselves into slavery because we lack self-control

3. Proverbs 25:28 (NIV) "Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control."

By not exercising self-control you give up control to someone else

4. 1 Timothy 6:18 (NLT) "Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give generously to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them."

Being in debt impacts our ability, not our desire or willingness, to be generous

What does God say – Get out of debt – especially consumer - debt this is something we've done to ourselves

### Dealing With Debt

When we drift into debt, we have to dig our way out – there is no easy way

The problem with getting out of debt is not finding the right tool or even creating a plan, it's having the discipline to do it

### *Two Needed Levels of Accountability*

1. With God - We need to say, "God I apologize. I want you only to be my Master"
2. Outside help – don't let your pride keep you from doing this if needed

When we get serious about getting out of debt, God honors our efforts

You must get a plan to get out of debt

If it's going to be embarrassing, let's go ahead and be embarrassed at this level rather than allowing to be embarrassed at a different level

As you get out of debt, you will have less stuff and more peace

Why would you be a slave to anyone or anything?

### My Next Step Today Is:

- I realize getting out of debt is also a spiritual decision. I am asking Christ to be my master – not money or stuff
- I am interested in having someone help me get out of debt
- I will memorize Proverbs 22:7
- I plan to attend to participate in Faith in Action on Sun, Nov 8<sup>th</sup>