

HOW CAN I BE FINANCIALLY SECURE?

SELECTED VERSES FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS



Dr. William R. Glaze
Bethany Baptist Church
October 9, 2016
Copyright 2016

BANKRUPTCY

In addressing the issue of bankruptcy the writer of Proverbs gives the following instruction, “Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it” (Prov. 3:27). This seems to indicate that a person should repay his debt when he is able to do so.

BUDGETING

Someone has wisely stated, “You can make plans for your money or your money can make plans for itself.” Making plans for your money is called budgeting. That is when you designate how much you want to spend in specific areas and stick to the plan.

A wise and diligent person makes plans for his money (Prov. 21:5).

CO-SIGNING

The Biblical word for co-signing is surety, it comes from a Hebrew word which means “to braid together or intermix.” The idea is for one person to interchange with another by taking his place. From a Biblical perspective it is a pledge to repay another person’s debt in case of default.

Co-signing for someone can cause serious problems, especially on a high interest loan (Prov. 11:15). The writer of Proverbs says simply—don’t do it (Prov. 22:26), because there is the possibility that you can lose your bed, i.e. valuable possession (Prov. 22:27 also see 20:16 and 27:13). When a person signs for someone who has a high interest loan, he should get out of it ASAP! The reason is because you are placing yourself under the control of a debt that someone else is responsible for paying. Co-signing for another is like being caught in a trap (Prov. 6:2). And we are told to get out of it immediately (Prov. 6:3) and don’t even go to sleep until you have done so (Prov. 6:4). You should struggle like a deer trying to get out of a trap and a bird caught in a cage until you are free (Prov. 3:5). The Bible says that one who co-signs is void of understanding (Prov. 17:18).

DEBT

Whenever an individual borrows money from someone else, he becomes that person’s servant until he pays off the debt. (Prov. 22:7). Therefore, we should think very carefully before borrowing money from someone or an institution. If we have to borrow money—repay it (Prov. 3:27)!

GAMBLING

The Bible does not say, “Thou shalt not gamble. bet or play the lottery.” However, it does caution the wise to acquire their financial resources by labor and stay away from get rich quick endeavors (Prov. 13:11). It also warns that attempts to get rich can sometimes backfire and lead to poverty (Prov. 28:22).

GIVING

God calls us to be a good steward over our finances. This is done when we make giving to him a priority (Prov. 3:9) and do it cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7). When we do this, we will have more than enough (Prov. 3:10). The Lord also promises a special blessing to those who give to the poor (Prov. 14:21; 19:17; 28:27) and he turns a deaf ear to those who do not hear and respond to the cries of the poor (Prov. 21:13). The Lord also delights in those who have a generous spirit (11:25; 21:26; 22:9) but issues a warning for the stingy (11:24).

GREED

Greed is an overwhelming urge or desire to have more than you need (esp. money). The child of God must be alert and not allow this deadly sin to creep into his life. One way to avoid greed is to not keep company with a greedy person (Prov. 1:15-19). A greedy person brings problems in the lives of relatives and those close to him (Prov. 15:27). One sad characteristic of a greedy person is his insatiable desire to get more (Prov. 21:5); and will even become a workaholic to fulfill his greed (Prov. 23:4). In the end, a greedy person will be punished with poverty (Prov. 28:20, 22)

ILL GOTTEN GAIN

When a person gets money dishonestly, it will not last very long (Prov. 13:11). Also, the one who gets wealth by lying will be cursed rather than blessed and may even put his life in jeopardy (Prov. 21:6). The Lord will take up the cause of the poor, and those who take advantage of the poor to give to the rich which eventually losing everything (Prov. 22:16; 22:22-23). When the wicked get riches the wrong way, they will either have no peace in their soul or their conscious will become numb and hard-hearted (Prov. 16:8; 28:6).

INHERITANCE

If possible, the parents should try to leave any inheritance to their children and grandchildren (Prov. 13:22). However, it must be kept in mind that an inheritance received prematurely, i.e. the Prodigal Son, can be foolishly squandered (Prov. 20:21)

INTEREST

If we are in a position to loan someone money, we should not charge them an exorbitant fee when in addition to the money we are loaning them to pad our pockets (Prov. 28:8). This could cause us to lose our blessing.

MONEY AND CHARACTER

Sometimes a person's character can be affected by money and sometimes their character will determine their attitude towards money. Money can give a person a sense of pride which lead to feeling secure within himself (Prov. 18:11). On the other hand when a person is humble and fears the Lord, he will be blessed with riches (Prov. 22:4).

MONEY AND CHOICES

Solomon is recognized as one of the wisest men who ever lived. When God gave him the choice to have anything in this world that he wanted, Solomon chose wisdom. As a result of this, God was not only granted his request, but He was also greatly pleased (2 Chron. 1:7-12). Is it any wonder that the writer of Proverbs says that we should choose wisdom before silver, gold and rubies (Prov. 8:10-11; 16:16)? As the people of God, we should be more concerned with choosing a good name rather becoming a person who is wealthy but has a disreputable character (Prov. 22:1)

MONEY AND SIN

God gives us money to meet our needs and to get some enjoyment out of life. But there are those who love to pursue pleasure and sensual indulgences. Their involvement in these sins will lead them into poverty (Prov. 21:17). Because the sinner is foolish and squanders his money, the righteous becomes the benefactor of his loss (Prov. 13:22).

MONEY AND STRESS

Some people who have a lot of money, and no fear of God, have a lot of stress. The Lord informs us that we should not let money stress us out (Prov. 15:16). As a matter of fact, when the Lord gives us a financial blessing, it is not accompanied by stress and anxiety (Prov. 10:22).

MONEY AND WORK

Those who have a good work ethic will do well in life (Prov. 12:11; 13:4; 11:4; 21:5; 28:19), but those who have a poor work ethic will come to poverty (Prov. 6:10-11; 10:4; 13:4; 24:33-34). There is also a word of admonition to not become a greedy workaholic (Prov. 23:4).

RETIREMENT

Some may think that retirement is not a Biblical concept. That may be true when it comes to staying active but it is not true when addressing the idea of planning financially for retirement. Proverbs 6:6-8 says, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest." The ant works while he can (in the

summer and fall) to ensure that he will have resources to live off of when he can't work (in the winter).

THE FLEETING POWERLESSNESS OF MONEY

I have heard it said, "It seems like I spend my money as soon as I get it." This might be what the writer meant when he recorded, "Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven" (Prov. 23:5). A person's friends can be like the eagle, come around when he has money and fly away when he has none (Prov. 14:20; 19:4). A righteous person can extend his life by godly living but when the end of our life comes, money cannot buy us another day (Prov. 11:4), especially the wicked (Prov. 10:2).

TRUST THE LORD

The one who trusts in riches will truly fall (Prov. 11:26). Conversely, the one who trusts in the Lord will prosper. It is interesting to note that true prosperity comes to one who trusts the Lord. The word trust comes from the Hebrew word *baw-takh* which means "to put confidence in.", The one who places confidence in the Lord will be made fat—satisfied (Prov. 28:25). The reality is that when the child of God, seeks the face of God, he will receive from the hand of God, exact blessing of God (Prov. 30:7-9).