

Ps 37:21 The wicked borrow and
do not repay, but the righteous
give generously;

A definition from the Old
Testament.

Debtor's prisons have long been outlawed, but Jesus uses one in a parable.

Matt 18:25 "But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made.

That is sold into slavery.

The problem is not new, but the amount of debt that we have results in more stress for our busy lives. Personal debt is at an all time high and personal savings at an all time low.

How did we get in that situation?
What are the results of this huge
debt?

Prov 22:7 The rich rule over the
poor, and the borrower is servant
to the lender.

When you are in debt, unless you are completely wicked, there is always a worry about someone coming and taking away what you have. You become a worrier and that affects your entire outlook on life.

In the parable of the sower, Jesus says that worry about the things of this world takes you away from God.

Matt 13:22 "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Debt = worry

1 Tim 6:6 But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. 7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either..

8 And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction

10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang. 11 But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

12 Fight the good fight of faith;
take hold of the eternal life to
which you were called, and you
made the good confession in the
presence of many witnesses.

Worry in one realm will cause worry and anger in others. When your heart is burdened with pain and uncertainty because of debt or longing for this world's goods, the envy, jealousy, anger, and disputes break out in every area of your life.

One of the quickest ways to get into debt is by credit cards. The improper use of credit will simply destroy those who use it by piling up a mountain of debt.

25% of Americans do not have a credit card and 30% pay off the balance every month!

Dec 2011 credit card debt averaged \$15,799 for persons having credit card debt.

Exod 22:25 If thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury. (KJV)

Exod 22:25 "If you lend money to My people, to the poor among you, you are not to act as a creditor to him; you shall not charge him interest.

Usury is now defined as excessive interest. The law in the state of Maryland is that an interest rate above 24% per year is usurious and thus illegal. However, MD's four largest banks moved their credit card businesses to Delaware in 1982.

At the end of the first year, instead of owing \$1000, you owe \$1,240. At the end of the second year you owe \$1,537. At the end of the third year you owe \$1,906.

In summary, if you charge on a credit card and are late a couple of times, you will be paying interest somewhere around the usury rate and the amount you owe will double in 3 or 4 years. We can easily understand why God did not want the Israelites charging interest (or perhaps high interest) to the poor.

Today we call lending money with no interest charity and the government is usually the only one that does much of this outside of the immediate family.

Why do people go bankrupt?

Sometimes it's because of some terrible disaster in their lives.

Medical expenses are the leading cause of money problems in the US. Job loss is second and unwise use of credit is third.

Why are people poor?

Sometimes it's because of some terrible disaster in their lives.

Medical expenses are the leading cause of money problems in the US. More often it's because of the choices they make.

Some decide to drop out of school

Prov 1:5 A wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel

The average earnings (2005) of –
a high school dropout \$17,299
a high school graduate \$26,993
a Bachelor's degree \$52,671

Prov 13:18 He who ignores
discipline comes to poverty and
shame, but whoever heeds
correction is honored.

Some don't make an effort to be
on time

Prov 6:10 "A little sleep, a little
slumber, a little folding of the
hands to rest"— 11 And your
poverty will come in like a
vagabond, and your need like an
armed man.

Some decide partying is the most
important thing in life

Prov 23:21 For the heavy drinker
and the glutton will come to
poverty, and drowsiness will
clothe a man with rags.

Some don't plan on having a career or a job where it will support them. They simply want to do "their thing".

Prov 28:19 He who tills his land will have plenty of food, but he who follows empty pursuits will have poverty in plenty.

You may really want to be a philosophy major in college and you may take out student loans to become a philosopher but you will find that very few people will pay you to be a philosopher. And if they do, it probably will not be much.

There are a lot of other college degrees which could be inserted for philosophy that are “empty pursuits” and which will bring you to poverty.

he who follows empty pursuits will have poverty in plenty. Pro 28.19

We are in an increasingly technical world. The population has grown to the point that there is no free land to live on. Poverty is the plight of too many in this land because of a failure to realize the wisdom found in God's word.

Rom 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone
except to love one another ...

If you pay your debts on time,
you do not owe. But if you make
debts that you cannot pay, you are
wicked and God will require it of
you in judgment.

1 Cor 5:11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler- not even to eat with such a one.

A swindler is someone who takes from another on false pretenses. Before we as Christians get into debt so great we cannot pay, we need to heed the counsel in God's word.

1Ti 4:8 for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

Would you follow God's plan? The starting place is to become His child.

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

(27) For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.