

Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes

First Quarter 2023: *Managing for the Master—Till He Comes*

Lesson 5 “Dealing With Debt”

Read for this week’s study

Deuteronomy 28:1, 2, 12; Matthew 6:24; 1 John 2:15; Proverbs 22:7; Proverbs 6:1–5;
Deuteronomy 15:1–5.

Memory Text

“The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender” (Proverbs 22:7, NKJV).

Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

- I. Introduction
- II. The Debt Problems
- III. Following Godly Counsel
- IV. How to Get Out of Debt
- V. Surety and Get-Rich-Quick Schemes
- VI. Term Limits and Borrowing Points
- VII. Further Study

Questions and Notes for Consideration

Facilitator: Jon Paulien

1. Debt is living today on what you expect to earn in the future. It is borrowing resources you haven’t earned yet. You are exchanging your future time and talent for the immediate use of someone else’s time and talent. Debt generally means you are living beyond your resources. Read Romans 13:7-8. What is Paul’s advice in regard to debt? (Sabbath Afternoon’s Lesson)
2. Read Deuteronomy 28:1, 2, 12. What difference does it make that this text is national and political in focus? Can we apply a passage like this to individuals? (Sunday’s Lesson)
3. Why do people get into financial difficulties? The lesson offers three reasons. How many others can you come up with? How do you change bad financial habits and unfortunate circumstances? How do you get out of financial difficulties? (Sunday’s Lesson)

4. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-9. What is Paul saying in this passage that can help define the difference between a “want” and a “need”? What is the absolute minimum someone needs in order to be content? (Sunday’s Lesson)
5. Read Matthew 6:24 and 1 John 2:15. Though these texts express things differently, what is the common theme in both of them? Read Psalm 50:14. What is the role of thankfulness to financial responsibility? What do you think the psalmist means by “pay your vows”? Why is working hard to earn a good living not necessarily the same things as making an idol of wealth or money? What is the difference? (Monday’s Lesson)
6. Read Proverbs 22:7. In what sense is the borrower a slave to the lender? How does that apply to an electronic payment, 24/7 world? If you find yourself in debt right now, what are some things you can do to get out of it? (Tuesday’s Lesson)
7. Reading the Bible, one could get the impression that one should not borrow for any purpose, just wait until you have the cash on hand. But are there situations where taking on debt makes sense? (Tuesday’s Lesson)
8. Read Proverbs 6:1-5, 17:18 and 22:26. What is the counsel here and is it a principle that should be applied without question today? Is there ever a time when it makes sense to co-sign a debt? Read Proverbs 28:20 and 1 Timothy 6:9-10. What warning is given there? (Wednesday’s Lesson)
9. Read Deuteronomy 15:1-5. What ancient Israelite practice is brought out here? Does that have any application today? (Thursday’s Lesson)
10. “Be determined never to incur another debt. Deny yourself a thousand things rather than run in debt. . . . Avoid it as you would the smallpox.” *Counsels on Stewardship*, 257. But at death the White Estate owed a significant sum, which she had used to support missions, backed up by future royalties on her books. How does that fact impact the way you read the above statement?

Further Study with Ellen White

The Lord will not compel men to deal justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with their God; He sets before the human agent good and evil, and makes plain what will be the sure result of following one course or the other. Christ invites us, saying, “Follow Me.” But we are never forced to walk in His footsteps. {RH, March 31, 1896 par. 10}

God has withheld nothing from man that could promote his happiness or secure to him eternal riches. He has clothed the earth with beauty, and furnished it with everything necessary for the comfort of man during his temporal life.—*Signs of the Times*, June 2, 1887. {TDG 162.6}

Christ is waiting to give you insight in regard to heavenly things; waiting to quicken your spiritual pulse to increased activity. {UL 313.5}

Our present peace must not be disturbed by anticipated trials, for God will never leave nor forsake one soul who trusts in Him. God is better unto us than our fears. If we would encourage a diligent remembrance and recital of our mercies, counting up instances in which God has wrought for us, has been better to us than our fears, in which He has interposed His power and His grace when sorely perplexed, sustained us when falling, comforted us when sorrowing, we would see that it is unbelief to distrust God or be filled with anxiety. Let mercies be remembered and enjoyed daily. We must live by faith daily. . . . Rejoice in God always. Today praise God for His grace, and continue to praise Him every day.—Letter 11a, Feb. 19, 1884, to Elder and Mrs. Uriah Smith. {TDG 58.4}