



Today's Message

Date: February 8, 2015
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***The Danger of Debt***

Text: Proverbs 6:1–5 (ESV)

6 My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor,
have given your pledge for a stranger,
² if you are snared in the words of your mouth,
caught in the words of your mouth,
³ then do this, my son, and save yourself,
for you have come into the hand of your neighbor:
go, hasten, and plead urgently with your neighbor.
⁴ Give your eyes no sleep
and your eyelids no slumber;
⁵ save yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter,
like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

Introduction: The Bible does not *absolutely* forbid all forms of debt, but *strongly* warns against it. For example, Proverbs 22:7 lays the foundational principle: “the borrower is the *slave* of the lender.” Debt places one in great danger, all the more when it is outside of our control. Solomon warned his son against it. We need to hear his warning because debt drives the economy in which we live.

Today's take-home truth: Flee debt with all your might for it will place you in great danger.

I. Condition: If you are entangled in foolish debt . . . 1-2

A. For example, whether out of gullibility or greed, you have “cosigned” for another. 1

B. Realize that you have placed *yourself* in great danger. 2

II. Consequence: You must do whatever it takes to free yourself from the danger. 3-4

A. Deal with it urgently and relentlessly. 3

B. Deal with it immediately. 4

III. Summary: Treat it as a matter of life and death. 5

Our situation differs from the legal and economic circumstances of Solomon’s day. Even so, the principles are still vitally important for us to heed. Here are some reasons that Christians must take his warning seriously:

1. Our debts usually reveal a heart issue that requires repentance.
2. Our debts spawn additional sins.
3. Our debts always squander resources that belong to Another.
4. Our debts entangle us, limiting our ability to serve our Lord.
5. Our debts endanger our family and our church.

So, how shall we flee this danger?