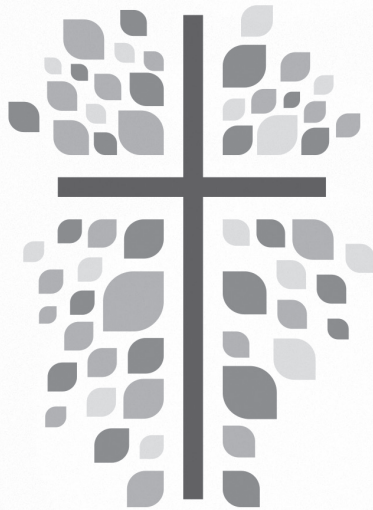


# FINANCIAL HOPE

Find Freedom in Your Finances  
Through God's Word



**MICHAEL BLUE**

RON BLUE  
INSTITUTE  
*For Financial Planning*

## Debt Mortgages Your Future

**PSALM 37:21**

*The wicked borrows but does not pay back,  
but the righteous is generous and gives.*

**T**he Bible doesn't call debt a sin, but it does warn us about its many unintended consequences.

When I was a young lawyer, we moved to Austin, Texas, and bought a home not far from downtown. We could barely afford the home, but reasonably expected my income to steadily increase over time. Even if it didn't, Austin was a great real estate market, so we believed we could always sell the home at any time and get our money out.

About three years after we bought our home, I became convicted that my job had become unsustainable for my family and faith. Around

this same time, the real estate market in the United States crashed. We couldn't sell our house. To make matters worse, I couldn't quit my job because I couldn't replace enough of my income in another job to still afford our mortgage. I was trapped. I literally owned a home that prevented me from taking a different job or going where I felt God leading me to go.

For three more years, we were unable to change anything. Eventually, the market recovered, we were able to sell our house and were finally freed to follow where God was leading. I learned a very important lesson along the way—debt always obligates me to something in the future before I know what the future holds.

By using debt, we are pre-committing our future selves to pay for our current wants and needs. Not only that, we are restricting our ability to be generous both now and in the future. We have reduced the amount of money that will be available in the future to meet unanticipated needs. In essence, debt says that our needs and wants today are worth more than anything the future brings.

Our decision about going into debt today is about a lot more than whether we can afford the payment. The decision is about whether we can afford to limit our futures. Debt always has future consequences; the trouble is that we can't know what they will be.



## EXPLORING PSALM 37:21

*Why do you think the righteous in this verse are able to give generously?*

*What are the root causes of not being able to repay a debt?*

### **“The wicked borrows but does not pay back”**

*Read PROVERBS 22:7. How does the lender-borrower relationship mirror a slave owner-slave relationship?*

*How does being in debt to another put you in bondage to them?*



*According to PROVERBS 22:26-27, what happens if you cannot repay what you owe?*

*Read JAMES 4:13-16. What is wrong with boasting about what you will do tomorrow?*

*How do you reconcile making plans and goals for the future with these verses?*

**“The righteous is generous and gives”**

*Read LUKE 12:24. Why can you afford to be generous?*



*How could debt prohibit you from experiencing God's hand of provision?*

*Read 2 CORINTHIANS 8:2-5. How did these people view giving?*

*How is your attitude toward giving similar to or different from these people?*

*Why do you think the Psalmist in PSALM 37:21 contrasts the borrower and the giver the way that he does?*

*How might debt decrease your ability to give today?*





**APPLYING PSALM 37:21**

*Do you have any debt today that is preventing you from being as generous as you want to be? How might you approach debt differently if you thought about it based on the impact more debt would have on your ability to give?*

*Take a few moments to ask God to help you understand and see the connection between debt and your ability to be generous.*

