

Mark Tidwell The Principle of the Ant Jan. 26, 2013

THE BLESSED LIFE

DECLARATION OF OWNERSHIP Key Scriptures: Mark 8:34-35, Titus 2:11-12

SAVINGS

Key Scriptures: Proverbs 6:6-8, Proverbs 21:20, Genesis 41:28-36, Luke 12:20-21, Matthew 6:19, 1 Timothy 5:8

Principle: The wise man stores up some of his provision during days of plenty to meet future needs.

Questions:

To distinguish between savings and hoarding, ask yourself this question:

1. If God presents me with a seemingly greater need, would I give the money away?

How do I know whether this seemingly greater need is of God or just an emotional tug? Ask yourself these questions:

1. Is meeting this need directed in God's Word?

2. Does meeting this need clearly advance my seeking first God's Kingdom and His righteousness in my life?

If the answer is yes to either of these standards, meet the need and lay up treasure in heaven.

DEBT

Key Scriptures: Proverbs 6:4-5, Romans 13:8 Proverbs 22:7, James 4:13-15, Acts 20:35, 1 Timothy 6:17 -19

Principle: When in debt, work to satisfy (pay back) your debt as quickly as possible.

Consequences of Debt: Bondage, Presumption, and Limitation

Steps to Debt Recovery:

- 1. Incur no new debts.
- 2. Immediately begin, or continue, giving God your first fruits.
- 3. Systematically begin eliminating your debt.
- 4. Plug into a training/equipping resource to help you develop a plan
 - a. Enroll in Financial Peace University (FPU)
 - b. Read Randy Alcorn's Books: Money, Possessions and Eternity and/or Managing God's Money
 - c. Read Dave Ramsey's Book: The Total Money Makeover