

# **DIVINE WARNINGS FOR DEBT AND ITS CONSEQUENCES**



## IMPORTANT TEXTS FOR THOSE WHO WORK IN GOD'S WORK

- Luke 14:28 – “For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not *sit down first and count the cost*, whether or not he has enough to finish it?”
- I Cor. 15:58 – “Therefore, my beloved brethren, *be steadfast, immovable*, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”
- I Cor. 14:40 – “Let all things be done decently and in *order*.”

## IMPORTANT TEXTS FOR THOSE WHO WORK IN GOD'S WORK

- **John 6:12** – “... ‘Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.’”
- **Luke 20:25** – “... ‘*Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.*’”
- **Nehemiah 13:13** – “And I appointed as treasurers... for *they were considered faithful.*”
- **Ecclesiastes 9:10** – “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might...”

*“Abstracting and using money for any purpose, before it is earned, is a snare....* Be determined never to incur another debt. Deny yourself a thousand things rather than run in debt. This has been the curse of your life, getting into debt. Avoid it as you would the smallpox.” AH, 392, 393

*“The reward of whole-souled liberality is the leading of mind and heart to a closer fellowship with the Spirit. The man who has been unfortunate, and finds himself in debt, should not take the Lord’s portion to cancel his debts to his fellow men.” 3TT, 41*



**“Many, very many, have not educated themselves that they can *keep their expenditures within the limits of their income.* They do not learn to adapt themselves to circumstances, and they borrow and borrow again and again, and become overwhelmed in debt, and consequently they become discouraged and disheartened.”**  
CS, 249

**“The world has a right to expect *strict integrity* in those who profess to be Bible Christians. By one man’s indifference in regard to paying his just dues, all our people are in danger of being regarded as unreliable.”** *ibid*, 253



To avoid debt: “Rise in the morning, even while the stars are shining, if need be. *Lay your plans* to do something, and then accomplish it. *Redeem every pledge* unless sickness lays you prostrate. *Better deny yourself* food and sleep than be guilty of keeping from others their just dues.” 2TT, 47

“All must *practice economy*. No worker should manage his affairs in a way to incur debt. ...When one voluntarily becomes involved in debt, he is entangling himself in one of Satan’s nets which he sets for souls.” CM, 93, 94



**“ The Lord does not take pleasure in your distress. He wants to bestow upon you the consolations of His Holy Spirit, that you may be a free man, abiding in His light and in His love. He has lessons for you to learn, and He would have you move quick in learning them. You ought not to allow yourself to become financially embarrassed; for the fact that you are in debt weakens your faith and tends to discourage you; and even in the thought of it makes you nearly wild. *You need to cut down your expenses*, and strive to supply this deficiency in your character. You can and should make determined efforts to bring under control your disposition to spend means beyond your income.”**  
CS, 254



**“The practice of borrowing money to relieve some pressing necessity, and making no calculation for *canceling the indebtedness*, however common, is demoralizing. The Lord would have all who believe the truth converted from these self-deceiving practices.”** *ibid*, 255

**“God does not want His work to be continually embarrassed with debt. When it seems desirable to add to the buildings or other facilities of an institution, *beware of going beyond your means*. Better to defer the improvements until Providence shall open the way for them to be made without contracting heavy debts and having to pay interest.”** *ibid*, 266



“The publishing work was founded in self-denial, and should be conducted upon *strictly economical* principles.” ibid, 266

“Let the proper estimate be placed upon the publications, and then let all in our publishing houses study to *economize in every possible way*, even though considerable inconvenience is thus caused. *Watch the little outgoes. Stop the leak.* It is the little losses that tell heavily in the end. Gather up the fragments; let nothing be lost.” ibid, 266



**“Some think it beneath their dignity to look after small things. They think it the evidence of a narrow mind and a niggardly spirit. *But small leaks have sunk many a ship.* Nothing that would serve the purpose of any should be allowed to waste. A lack of economy will surely bring debt upon our institutions.”  
ibid, 267**

**“God desires all the workers to *practice economy, and especially to be faithful accountants.*” 7T, 207**



***“Economy must be practiced in every line to keep afloat, and not be drowned with debts...” CS, 270***

***“Keep within bounds. Shun the incurring of debt as you would shun leprosy.” ibid, 272***

***“Mistakes have been made in incurring debt to do that which could well have waited till a future time.” ibid, 278***



**“Let all who are connected with our institutions humble themselves before God. Let them ask God to help them to *plan so wisely* and economically that the institutions will take firm root and will bear fruit to God’s glory.” ibid, 274**

**“The president and the business manager are to work unitedly together. *The business manager is to see that the expenditure does not exceed the income.*” ibid, 275**



# Consequences of debt on the life of a server or of institutions:

- 1 – demoralizes the work and its workers;
- 2 – creates problems in the interpersonal relationships of the workers and their families;
- 3 – brings shame to the cause of God;
- 4 – opens the door of temptation to misappropriate that which belongs to the Lord;
- 5 – brings dismay;
- 6 – the church loses reliability if its subordinates fail in financial administration;
- 7 – weakens faith;
- 8 – and if there are interest payments, there is still a heavy cost to the institutions.

## KEY PHRASES

- *Sit down first and count the cost– Luke 14:28*
- *Plan so wisely*
- *Keep expenditures within the limits of income*
- *Abstracting and using money for any purpose, before it is earned, is a snare*
- *Beware of going beyond your means*
- *Canceling the indebtedness*
- *The man who has been unfortunate, and finds himself in debt, should not take the Lord's portion*
- *Redeem every pledge*

## KEY PHRASES

- *You need to cut down your expenses*
- *Better deny yourself*
- *Practice economy / Strictly economical*
- *Watch the little outgoes. Stop the leak.*
- *Avoid waste– John 6:12*
- *The president and business manager are to work unitedly together:*
  - *director: planning (involving the president) and promotion*
  - *manager: budget (involving the treasurer) and control*
  - *assistant: assist in the day to day of the colporteur*



## KEY PHRASES

- *Strict integrity– Luke 20:25 – “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's”*
- *Order – organization – I Cor. 14:40*
- *Faithful accountants– honesty – Nehemiah 13:13*
- *Steadfast, immovable– consistency – I Cor. 15:58*

## **GUIDANCE PRINCIPLES TO BE TRANSMITTED TO COLPORTEURS**

**“The tract and missionary societies [Book and Bible Houses] have been deeply involved in debt through the failure of canvassers to meet their indebtedness. Canvassers have felt that they were ill-treated if required to pay promptly for the books received from the publishing houses. Yet to require prompt remittal is the only way to carry on business.” CM, 92**

**“Matters should be so arranged that canvassers shall have enough to live on without overdrawing. This door of temptation must be closed and barred. However honest a canvasser may be, circumstances will arise in his work which will be to him a sore temptation.” ibid, 92**



**“The efficient colporteur, as well as the minister, should have a sufficient remuneration for his services if his work is faithfully done.” CM, 28**

**“If a canvasser continues to order books, and sends no report of his work, making no statement regarding their delivery and the receipt and expenditure of the money that he handles, those in charge of the work should, in a kind, friendly manner, endeavor to ascertain the true situation. To supply books freely to an agent until he is hopelessly involved in debt is to do injustice both to the canvasser and to those by whom he is employed. Such a loose, careless way of working brings discouragement.” ibid, 94**

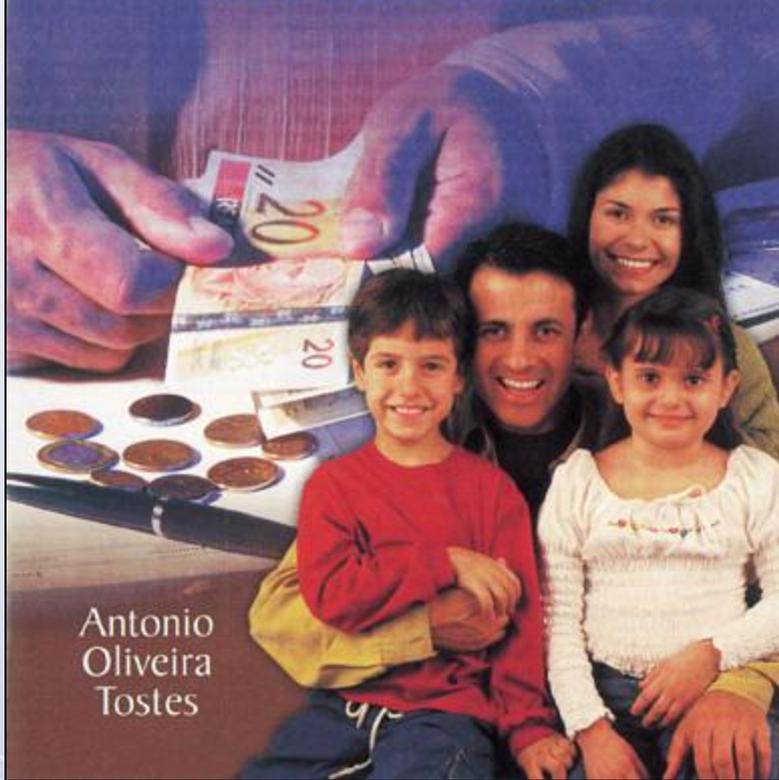


- **books and magazines should be purchased in cash;**
- **all personal expenses should be paid in cash. Always remember the divine guidance: “Abstracting and using money for any purpose, before it is earned, is a snare.”**
- **be aware of what is a properly maintained missionary;**
- **have a financial reserve. This is indispensable. The reserve should be in money (savings) and stock of books;**

- **have a policy of strict economy, avoiding whatever superfluous and unnecessary expenses:**
  - **“Watch the little outgoes. Stop the leak.” E. White**
  
- **care for small expenses: “But small leaks have sunk many a ship.” E. White**
  
- **have a consistent policy for optimizing expenses, or rather, making the most of available resources**
  - **Avoid waste. John 6:12**

- **have family planning, which should include investments (purchase of car / house), family projects (vacations / retirement), formation of reserves (savings / stock);**
- **have a family budget, where all fixed and variable expenses will be separated, as well as investment planning and formation of your reserves (savings and stock);**
- **maintain a strict relationship with God, being faithful in tithes and offerings (this should be a pact);**
- **train your children to give their tithes and offerings.**

# ADMINISTRAÇÃO FINANCEIRA DA FAMÍLIA



Antonio  
Oliveira  
Tostes

**Book about financial  
guidance for the family**



CASA PUBLICADORA BRASILEIRA