

1 **Margin: Finding Balance for Overloaded Lives**

Finding Financial Balance
Wednesday Night Bible Study
April 13, 2011

2 **Our Goal**

- **To communicate a *biblical philosophy* for bringing balance to overloaded lives**

3 **Margin...**

- **...is having the physical, emotional, financial and time reserves to respond to a God-given opportunities to be a blessing to yourself or someone else.**

4 **Four Areas**

- **Emotional margin**
- **Physical margin**
- ***Financial margin***
- **Time margin**

5 **Luke 12:15**

- **Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even**

when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.” (See Luke 12:13-21)

6 **Why No Financial Margin?**

- **Because personal, corporate, national and international debt is going through the roof.**

7 **What is the Problem?**

- **In almost every theater of activity, people and governments are *spending more than they take in* on consistent basis**

8 **The National Debt Ceiling**

- **...is currently more than 14 trillion dollars and will need to be raised by the summer or the government will cease to function.**

9 **Currently, our...**

- **...government borrows about 100 billion dollars each month just to meet its obligations.**

10 **Some Key Terms**

- **You have a *Budget Deficit* when you spend more money than you take in.**

11 **Debt...**

- **If you use your credit card or borrow money to cover your budget deficit, that is called *debt*.**
- 12 **In most instances...**
 - **...we have to pay to use someone else's money. That is called interest. The more we borrow, the more interest we pay.**
- 13 **At some point we...**
 - **...arrive at the place where we cannot take on anymore debt because we cannot afford to pay the interest. That is our debt ceiling.**
- 14 **When we reach the...**
 - **...point that our income is insufficient to cover our interest payments and other obligations, we are *bankrupt*.**
- 15 **Government Spending**
 - **Health and Human services**
 - **(850 Billion)**
 - **Social Security (750 Billion)**
 - **Defense (710 billion)**
 - **Treasury (450 Billion)**
- 16 **In the big harangue...**
 - **...over the possibility of shutting down the government, they agreed to cut about 40**

billion dollars. Some cuts were just on paper.

17 **If congress...**

- **...wanted to make a real dent in the federal budget deficit, they fell about *970 billion* dollars short.**

18 **Deficits for 2009/2010**

- **1.29 Trillion in 2010**
- **1.42 Trillion in 2009**
- **Total wealth of the rich (1.3 Trillion)**

19 **Our national debt...**

- **...problem exists because our government has developed a love affair with consumption.**

20 **Our family debt...**

- **...problems exist because our families have developed a love affair with consumption**

21 **Our love affair...**

- ***...with plastic is the main reason that we have no room to wiggle...that is, we have no financial margin.***

22 **Why Financial Margin?**

- We live with a lot less stress when our income exceeds our out go
- We are free to help others
- We are in fellowship with God

23 **Restoring Margin**

- No matter how tight the bind you are in, there is a way to restore financial margin to your life.

24 **Just as getting...**

- ...into a financial bind took time, finding financial margin will take time, but it is worth it. Believe me.

25 **First Priority**

- Before you can restore financial margin to your life, you must settle the issue of Lordship once and for all. Who has the right to rule your life?

26 **Until God is Lord...**

- ...over your finances, you are destined to ride a financial and emotional roller coaster from fat times to lean times to fat

times.

27 **Become a Giver**

- **The only way to break the powerful hold that money has over us is to learn to give it away. Become a giver. (Acts 20:35; Deut. 15:7-8)**

28 **Break the Chains**

- **Once we know who has first place in our lives, and once we learn to be givers, we can begin to break the culture chains that influence us. We must not allow others to dictate how we shall live.**

29 **Living within your means**

- **...is possible but not popular. It begins with contentment and a desire for simplicity. We must learn to make do with what we have.**

30 **Clarify and...**

- **...distinguish between your wants and your needs. Redefine needs according to God's definition and ignore the advertisers.**

31 **Reduce Spending**

- **Establish a budget (spending plan) with spending limits, and renew your commitment to those limits on a regular**

basis.

32 **Increase Savings**

- **Hoarding is not biblical, but saving for emergencies and for specific future needs is not only permissible but strongly encouraged.** (Go to the ant...)

33 **Increase Income**

- **If increased income demands more hours, we could seriously erode our time margin. Consider short-term, goal-oriented increases.**

34 **Discard Credit Cards**

- **Retain a credit card for hotel and car rentals but cut the others up unless you are able to pay the balance at the end of every month.**

35 **Don't mortgage...**

- **...your future. Your mortgage should not be greater than 25% of your gross income and not more than 40% of your net spendable income.**

36 **Manage impulse...**

- **...buying. Buy as many items in your budget as possible with cash. A debit card may be convenient but it may not help you to curb impulse buying.**

37 **Share**

- **Don't be afraid to let others borrow your tools. It may save them from having to buy an item they use only sparingly.**

38 **Paul, the Apostle...**

- **...said, I have learned to be content in whatever situation I am in. Contentment in the lean times and in times of abundance is the key to finding financial margin.**