



*“The main determinant in the choice and use of material goods is the maintenance of the individual’s prestige and self-respect. The person’s true needs are at best of secondary importance and often are disregarded altogether. To a large extent a person’s prestige in his own eyes and also in those of his marital partner, neighbors, work associates and friends lies mainly in his capacity to demonstrate that he can consume things he really does not need. The gap between a person’s true needs and the things he consumes but does not need is one of the basic features of all economic systems. This principle is defined by the term— ‘Conspicuous Consumption.’ ”*

*“The awesome difficulty in freeing ourselves from conspicuous consumption lies in the fact that we are reared in it from our earliest months, that it is accepted as an unquestioned, desirable aspect of our existence, and that our concepts of ourselves as worthwhile, desirable persons depend to a large extent on how well we play this game.”*

Thorstein Veblen, *“The Theory of the Leisure Class”*

**Isa. 55:2** *Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.*

**Luke 12:13-21** *Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” Then he said to them, “**Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.**” And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, **What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.**” “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and **build bigger ones**, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.” ‘ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ “This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.” Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? “Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. **But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.***

## SYMPTOMS OF FINANCIAL BONDAGE

### \_\_\_ OVER DUE BILLS

**Ecc. 5:-5** It is better that you should not vow—than to vow and not pay.

### \_\_\_ FEELING ANXIOUS

**Matt 6:24-25** No man can serve two masters-God and mammon  
**Luke 12:22** don’t be anxious—wages war between spirit and soul. **Vs. 31** seek first the kingdom of God—

### \_\_\_ AGET RICH QUICK ATTITUDE

**Prov 28:20** A faithful man will abound in blessings—but he who makes haste to be rich will not go unpunished.

### \_\_\_ DECEITFULNESS

**Luke 16:10** He who is faithful in little, is faithful in much

### \_\_\_ GREEDINESS

**Phil 4:11** Paul learned to be content—whatever the circumstances.

### \_\_\_ COVETOUSNESS

**Eph 5:5** No covetous man, who is an idolater has an inheritance in the kingdom of God.  
**Ecc. 5:10-12** Whoever loves money never has enough.

### \_\_\_ AN OVER COMMITMENT TO WORK

**Prov. 23:4** Do not weary yourself to gain wealth.  
**Luke 12: 13-21** Why toil and spin--consider the ravens and seek Him first.

### \_\_\_ FINANCIAL SUPERIORITY

**Prov. 18:11** The wealth of the rich is their fortified city; they imagine it an unscalable wall.  
**James 2:1-13** Do not hold the rich in high esteem.

### \_\_\_ FAILURE TO GIVE TO OTHERS

**Jas. 2:15-16** If brother or sister is without—and you say go in peace — be warmed and filled — and do not give them what they need — **what good is that?**

### \_\_\_ FAILURE TO GIVE TO GOD

**Prov. 3:9-10** Honor the Lord from your wealth and the first of all your produce — so that your barns will be full of plenty.