



## Fact Sheet – Debt Reduction and Cheap Holiday Ideas

### What does God's word say about debt?

Australians are relying more and more on debt to fund their lifestyle. Home mortgages, car loans and credit cards all seem normal to us, but what does God's word say about debt? Some Christians believe you should never borrow money, others operate no differently from the world, not only do they borrow but they borrow to excess. God does not prohibit going into debt, he simply lays down very clear principles about debt.

1. Proverbs 22:7 says "the borrower is servant to the lender" The deeper in debt we are, the more time, energy and resources we spend servicing the debt.
2. In the Old Testament debt was considered a curse and being out of debt was a promised reward for obedience to God.
3. Debt presumes upon tomorrow – James 4:14 says "you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow", when we get into debt we assume we will earn enough in the future to pay the debt.
4. Debt may deny God an opportunity to provide for your needs. Debt can also prevent you from being able to provide for others needs or follow God's calling on your life.

Romans 13:8 commands us to "let no debt remain outstanding".

### How do you get out of debt?

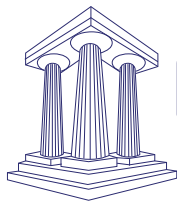
So if you are in debt, how do you get out of it? Here are ten simple steps to debt free living:

1. **PRAY** – God is interested in you becoming debt free
2. Make sure you are regularly **TITHING**.
3. Establish a **BUDGET** based on this principle: "If I can't afford it now it isn't God's will now"
4. Is there anything that could be **SOLD** to help you get out of debt more quickly?
5. Systematically **ELIMINATE** existing **DEBTS** by listing all your debts and paying off high interest rate debts first.
6. Consider **EARNING** additional **INCOME**.
7. If your **CREDIT CARD** is a temptation destroy it.
8. Be **CONTENT** with what you have.
9. Consider a radical change in **LIFESTYLE** – do you really need the latest model car?
10. **DON'T GIVE UP.**

### Cheap Holiday Ideas

Sufficient rest and relaxation are essential to revitalise and enable us to be more productive. Often we become caught up in travel marketing and think we need to go to an exotic location to truly rest. However using debt to fund a holiday can place further stress on our lives once we return home to increased debt repayments. So here are a few cheap holiday ideas that may enable you to find the respite you need without the use of debt or blowing the budget:

1. **Christian Home Swap**—A friend of mine, David Utting, recently launched this service that enables individuals, couples and families to see the world through local eyes by staying in the homes of locals! To sign up for your complimentary listing or to simply find out more visit [www.ChristianHomeSwap.com/invite/](http://www.ChristianHomeSwap.com/invite/)
2. **Holiday homes**—many people have holiday homes that remain empty for much of the year. Often you can stay for minimal cost and help out the owner by doing some minor maintenance like mowing the lawn.
3. **Just in time bookings** - use [www.lastminute.com.au](http://www.lastminute.com.au) and [www.wotif.com.au](http://www.wotif.com.au) for last minute bookings
4. **Cheap domestic flights**
  - a. Book during happy hour periods - registering for regular updates will keep you informed
  - b. Red eye deals—flying at night or early morning is cheaper
  - c. Avoid flying during school holidays and weekends as prices are generally triple the price
  - d. Book in advance and use frequent flyer or other award points
5. **Cheap international travel**
  - a. Travel off peak—one day can make a different huge price difference
  - b. Early bird specials — booking early is usually cheaper
  - c. Travel expos - if you know exactly what you want and can put down a deposit travel expos can save you money
6. **Short Term Mission Trips** - often focused on practical activities like building and painting, short term mission trips both within Australia and overseas are a great way to broaden your horizons, meet great people, have an impact on communities in need. A mission trip can change your life.
7. **Camping Getaways** - some of the most memorable experiences children have are of family camping holidays. They not only lots of fun but also cost effective. Your kids friends could also come.



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Financial Advice Based on Solid Foundations

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