

Seedtime and Harvest Ministry



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UNLESS

THE BIBLE SAYS WHAT IT SAYS UNLESS I NEED IT TO SAY SOMETHING ELSE

I have discussions regarding debt rather often. And rather often I am talking with Christians as we look at what the Bible says about making debt. Honestly, it is a challenge to keep the discussion on 'what the Bible says about debt'. Whether I am in Haiti or in America, the conversation is typically hijacked with some sort of "unless" statement. God clearly does not like debt... unless I need ... a house, car, emergency surgery, you know, something big and important. Important things require us to 'read between the lines' of the Bible, right?

Now I am not saying that everything in the Bible is a simple, straight forward read. But I find it interesting that I never run across someone who suggests borrowing is "off limits". Never has anyone pointed to Deuteronomy chapters 15 or 28 for example and said to me, Hey Brian did you ever ask yourself if borrowing was a blessing or a curse according to these verses? And had I rightly replied that debt was a curse (one of many) then the follow-up question might be - was the curse applied due to obedience or disobedience? Then I would have to point to the verses that indicate that disobedience to God was the problem, so the curse was given, and debt was simply a sign of that messy situation.

In all fairness, I first read this discussion when Crown Financial ministry guided us through these verses and asked these questions. Then, even they stopped and never gave an answer to the question. Is there an "unless" clause in the debt subject? Is it acceptable to God in some situations?

I will tell you that we do not teach an answer to this, much like we do not teach an answer with many of the financial topics. We do highlight the verses involved and then highlight the lack of verses that say we can readily violate the main teaching. For example, we ask if there is a "because I am poor" clause for stealing. Or "because I am educated or rich" clause that suggests I do not need to work hard. I could not find an "unless" clause for debt. I did notice that the "I don't have to do a good job if my boss is harsh" clause was actually opposite of this (1 Peter 2:18).

So I have a blank space below the verses that invites me to restate what God told me. There may indeed be an "unless" clause there. But my first dozen reads of these Deut chapters make me think about having more than a two minute prayer asking God to rubber stamp my latest debt request.

I just felt the need to have this little discussion. Thanks for reading it.

Thank you for your prayers, support and words of encouragement! All are welcomed.

A few Ministry updates are on the backside...unless you don't want to know!

"WHILE THE EARTH REMAINS, SEEDTIME AND HARVEST, COLD AND HEAT, WINTER AND SUMMER, AND DAY AND NIGHT SHALL NOT CEASE." GENESIS 8:22

Brian Winzenried



Frantz is working hard to plant seed.

Seedtime's November Bible study in Mare Rouge, Haiti went very well and encouraged us a lot. Frantz (photo right) led this effort and he has another group in Port-de-Paix, Haiti discussing classes on December 23rd, 24th and 25th. Seems like a strange time to schedule a Bible study but we certainly won't say no.



Frantz finally received the shipment of supplies we sent him and is now well stocked for a few months of Bible studies. Thanks to those who help make this happen!

Brian has started offering weekly Bible studies in Derby, Kansas and 4 people have taken part. It is a slow start that we pray will grow or produce good fruit in time.

We are reading in the news that 2 of the 17 missionaries to Haiti that were kidnapped have been released. Praise the Lord for movement in the right direction. Let's pray for more success please!

Frantz was saddened by the very recent death of one sister just two days after speaking by phone with her. He said she was healthy and happy as she spoke and now he is traveling to Cap Haitian with a brother to bring his sister home for burial.

He also asked for prayers for his wife Elisiane after a motorcycle ran over her foot recently causing pain and swelling.

His daughter Gaelle (Guy Elle) just had her 3rd birthday last week.

If anyone would like to send Frantz a financial gift this season we would certainly be happy to pass it to him. Make a note that you want to bless Frantz and we will get it to him promptly!

We send out a 2 page Newsletter like this one every other month.

But you may not know that we send a 1 page Ministry Update every two weeks. If you would like the Update as well as the Newsletter, just let us know.



Plant God's Word with Seedtime and Harvest
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