

# CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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## I Need a Loan

*Mark Robbins, CPA*

I was recently counseling a twenty-year old college student in a neighboring state. He was seeking some financial advice after I preached on stewardship in his church.

This young man thought it was important for him to have a car and a computer. He really did not have any credit history, so he wanted to get a credit card to establish credit. He was having trouble getting a credit card on his own and asked for my thoughts.

"I think you have bought into one of our culture's lies," I stated. A little puzzled, he asked me what I meant. "Why do you need a loan for a car or a computer? Your parents are letting you live at home, and you are saving almost all of your money from your job. Why don't you simply save and buy these items when you have enough money?"

This young man told me that he had never thought of this option. He could not even conceive of a life without loans. Our culture lies to us regarding finances. Here are some of the biggest lies:

- You must have it all right now. (Paul describes patience in Gal 5:22)
- When you need something, get a loan. (What about God's provision Deut 28:12)
- You have many needs. Start saving tomorrow. (Pleasure robs savings Prov 21:17)

I convinced my counselee that saving money is a better financial decision than paying interest to a bank. He then asked me a very revealing cultural question. "Can you help me set up a savings plan? I don't know how." I was happy to set up a savings plan with him. I was even more pleased to give him God's perspective on savings.

Proverbs 13:11 states, "Wealth obtained by fraud dwindles, but the one who gathers gradually increases it" (NASB). Saving money begins with a plan, and that plan is implemented gradually. Decide what you are saving for and set aside money every paycheck. Many people will use a special savings account to help them save.

My young friend is very excited about his new adventure in finances. I even spoke with him on the phone a few days after our session. If he begins a life oriented around savings (rather than debt), he will become more patient and will be rewarded financially.

You can experience that same blessing. What house project or special product would you really like to purchase? Start saving money with your next paycheck. You will have enough money sooner than you imagined, and the purchase will cost a lot less (because you will not pay credit card finance charges on top of the purchase).

Don't believe the lie that you must have loans for everything you want. God tells us the truth, and He reveals to us that we should orient our lives around savings. Respond to God's truth about savings, and you will honor Him.

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BBC Foundation has been ministering to churches and individuals regarding biblical stewardship since 1992. Send your questions on finances and stewardship to: BBC Foundation, 538 Venard Rd., Clarks Summit, PA 18411. Phone: (800) 451-8668, website: [bbcfoundation.org](http://bbcfoundation.org); e-mail: [info@bbcfoundation.org](mailto:info@bbcfoundation.org)