

## “Awkward Ambitions: The Ambitions of a Middle Class”—II

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### ☐ “Surfing a tsunami”

- ◆ Our national debt now stands at \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- ◆ Add to that our personal consumer debt (the combination of home mortgage and consumer credit loans) which is \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- ◆ James Scurlock: “Americans have accepted the surfing lifestyle in all of its absurdities. . . . Until we wipe out. Until we lose our jobs, until we get divorced, until we discover that our health insurance doesn’t cover thousands of dollars of ‘extras,’ . . . until our home doesn’t appreciate at the anticipated rate. Until we can no longer surf. And then the ‘\_\_\_\_\_ hell,’ . . . kicks in. The interest rates increase. The bargain we accepted ceases to be a bargain. It becomes prohibitively expensive. We learn that we are not middle-class at all. We are \_\_\_\_\_. We own \_\_\_\_\_.”  
(*Maxed Out* 14, 15)

### ☐ Philippians 4:11-19

- ◆ v 11 NRSV—“I have learned to be \_\_\_\_\_ with whatever I have.”
- ◆ Contentment must be \_\_\_\_\_ before it can be lived.
- ◆ Proverbs 22:7—“ . . . the borrower is \_\_\_\_\_ to the lender.”
- ◆ Scurlock reports that the total amount of mortgage debt in the U.S. is now greater than the value of all the stock markets combined.
- ◆ vv 11, 12 *The Message*: “Actually, I don’t have a sense of needing anything personally. I’ve learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances. I’m just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little. I’ve found the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or empty.”

### ☐ Two simple strategies to learn how to move from a life of indebtedness to a life of contentment.

- ◆ Strategy #1—Turn your \_\_\_\_\_ off.
  - Jerry Mander: “Advertising exists only to purvey what people don’t \_\_\_\_\_. Whatever people do \_\_\_\_\_ they will find without advertising. . . . The goal of advertising is \_\_\_\_\_ or, to put it another way, an internal scarcity of \_\_\_\_\_. This must be continually created, even at the moment when one has finally bought something. In that event, advertising has the task of *creating* \_\_\_\_\_ with what has just been bought, since once that act is completed, the purchase has no further benefit to the market system.” (*Four Arguments for the Elimination of Television* 126-129)
  - “Television is by far the best [of all the media at] placing advertising inside people’s \_\_\_\_\_.” (131)

- In 2005 American companies spent \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in advertising in order to persuade us to purchase their products and services (2.2% of the GDP).
- ◆ Strategy #2—Turn your \_\_\_\_\_ on.
  - Philippians 4:19 NRSV—“My God will fully satisfy every \_\_\_\_\_ of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”
    - Psalm 50:10-12—“The \_\_\_\_\_ is Mine.”
    - Haggai 2:8—“The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ are Mine.”
  - See my “pastor’s blog” today—[www.pmchurch.tv](http://www.pmchurch.tv)—for six strategic steps the Motley Fool website recommends for getting free of credit card debt.
  - Dave Ramsey: “There is NO positive side to credit card use. You will spend \_\_\_\_\_ % more if you use credit cards instead of cash. If you ‘have to’ use plastic, I suggest a debit card. I use them for travel and the occasional convenience of ordering something over the Internet or phone. Other than that, I use cash.”  
([www.daveramsey.com/the\\_truth\\_about/credit\\_card\\_debt\\_3478.html.cfm](http://www.daveramsey.com/the_truth_about/credit_card_debt_3478.html.cfm))
  - Philippians 4:15-18—the readers of Paul’s letter were known far and wide as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ is a divine strategy for learning contentment free of debt’s bondage.
  - Luke 6:38 NLT: “If you give, you will \_\_\_\_\_. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving—large or small—it will be used to measure what is given back to you.”
  - \_\_\_\_\_ is the great antidote to the debt of discontent.
  - “Freely you have received, freely give.”

Answers: 8,820,533,824,090.40; 10,276,200,000,000; debt; poor; nothing; content; learned; servant; gawking; need; need; discontent; contentment; discontent; heads; 271,074,000,000; giving; need; world; silver; gold; 12-18; givers; Giving; receive; Giving