

LIVING WATER

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DEBT FREE LIVING

by Jake Schaefer

Debt is an all too familiar reality. Currently, Americans as a whole owe \$986 billion on credit cards, \$11.92 trillion on mortgages, \$1.55 trillion on vehicle loans, and \$1.6 trillion on student loans.¹ The national debt is at \$32 trillion and growing. Perhaps you are currently feeling the burden of an overwhelming financial debt. What if I told you that I had a sure way to get rid of that debt forever? Many people would jump at the chance to have their debt forgiven and remove the weight of a crushing financial burden. While I don't have a quick and easy solution for your financial debt, I do know of a solution for a debt of another kind.

In the book of Romans, Paul describes the debt of every human in this way:

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”. (Rom. 3:23)

Some have incurred this debt when they choose to reject God. (Rom. 1:21) Some incur this debt when they try, but fail to keep God's law perfectly. (Rom. 3:9-18) Once we sin, we have a debt that we have earned, “for the wages of sin is death”. (Rom. 6:23) Our sin puts us into debt and the price is spiritual death which is eternal separation from God. Paul also describes this state of debt as being “slaves to sin”, the product of which is shame and eventually death. (Rom. 6:20-21)

No number of good deeds could pay off the debt we have earned; (Rom. 3:20) we would be stuck, unable to free ourselves from this debt except by our own spiritual death.

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ”. (Eph. 2:4-5)

Jesus Christ paid our debt by His death on the cross. And while our debt was something we earned through our sin, the eternal life we have in Christ Jesus is a free gift. (Rom. 6:23)

Imagine someone stepping in to completely pay off your burden of financial debt. What a feeling of relief to have that burden lifted, and what freedom to move forward in your life! And what gratitude toward the generous individual who paid it. In addition to feelings of gratitude and relief one might expect a change in attitude and actions so that you might not fall again into debt. Similarly, those who have had their debt of sin paid by the Son of God ought to walk in a “newness of life”. (Rom. 6:4)

Certainly financial responsibility should be sought by everyone as good stewards of God's blessings, but neither a full bank account nor a life of good behavior will save your soul from the debt that comes from your sin. The good news of the gospel is that Jesus has

paid that debt and those who believe in and obey Him can have that debt totally and utterly removed as far as the east is from the west.

Then, having put to death your old life of sin and rising to walk in newness of life, you can truly enjoy debt-free living.

1 Statistics taken from [Debt.org/faqs/americans-in-debt/demographics/](https://debt.org/faqs/americans-in-debt/demographics/)

