

## Keeping Our Word & Paying Our Debts

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by Bill Crews

The Bible is very strong on (1) keeping our promises and (2) paying our debts (Ecclesiastes 5:2, 4-5; Numbers 30:2; Romans 13:8; Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9). We are not to go back on our word or fail to repay that which we have borrowed.

**Application 1:** When we confess that we believe with all of our hearts that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (Acts 8:37; Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32-33; 1 Timothy 6:12-14), we should then act like we believe that every day, from that point on. But, if in spite of that, we fall away into neglect or transgression, God is merciful and willing to receive us back (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:6-9; 2:1-5). When we repent of our neglect and transgressions and confess them unto God (and perhaps unto our brethren due to the public nature of our sins) and pray for God's forgiveness, we thereby resolve to amend our ways, and we commit ourselves to serve God faithfully and anew. We should strive to keep our word. A track record of broken promises or unkept commitments is a very bad track record.

**Application 2:** There is nothing sinful or shameful in borrowing money. It may be embarrassing to have to do so, but we can recover from that. If our folly or carelessness put us into a situation in which we had to borrow, we should work on that and endeavor not to repeat the mistake. But the mere step of borrowing money is not in itself either sinful or shameful. What is both sinful and shameful is a deliberate or careless failure to pay back what we have borrowed, and the world is full of people who have done and continue to do that. Many of them profess to be Christians. To use the words of James: *"My brethren, these things ought not so to be"* (James 3:10).

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