

I SEE – I LIKE – I WANT



Photo: Currys PC World, Coventry, West Midlands (Photo: David Neal)

For quite a long time now, we've lived in the age of the instant. Remember the time when messages were hand or type-written on paper, placed in an envelope, and posted in a letterbox. Delivery time was, at best, next day.

For my tenth birthday, I received a point and shoot 'Kodak Instamatic' camera. Click, click, click – three pictures a day, and a fortnight later I'd see the result. 'Instamatic', really?

By far the most painful case of 'instant' from times past was the 'For mash get smash' experience. Instead of wholesome mashed potatoes for dinner, it was 'instant smash', a horrible synthetic substitute mixed with water - ugh! But the pressure on 1970's mothers was great. After all, who'd want to be seen as 'primitive' peeling potatoes, as this TV advert shows.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4MTgiNkfyl>

[Fast-forward to 2018 and our hyperconnected lives. "Negative effects include a need for instant gratification and loss of patience," says the Pew Research Center.*](#) Never a truer word spoken, so it's off to the Currys PC World store to stay connected. Currys is found in almost every UK town, a gadget heaven, crammed full of TVs, computers, cameras, refrigerators, and everything electrical. If what I'm looking for isn't there, it's not been invented yet.

Enter the store, and there's an immediate audio-visual attack on the senses. Everything is bright, shiny, and clean. In one corner the latest sound box booms. In another, a Samsung 60" with concave LED screen. As it projects a crystal-clear image, with its paper-thin design (just 63mm), I see - I like - I want!

It must be a coincidence, but recently I've noticed how dull our ten-year-old LG 42" flat screen TV looks, as well as taking up enormous space in the living room. I'd love to hang it on the wall, but being heavy and 3 inches thick (80mm), not possible. I'm also tired of watching pixelated images, especially when the football's on. I don't see grass - just a green colour, with players blurred in the camera long shot. It would be so great to have an ultra-light-weight thin TV? I did tell you that the Samsung is just 63mm thick, didn't I? I read the tag attached to the screen: "*Polished and refined, it brings a clean look and feel wherever you place it.*"

As I head to the checkout to buy, 'polished and refined', I murmur to myself. That's me, isn't it? I present my credit card, proud of my extensive credit limit, no problem for me. As the checkout assistant processes the details, I remind myself I work hard, so I deserve to play hard. Hanging on the living room wall – how it will brighten up our home.

Three days later, my car unexpectedly breaks down. The automatic gearbox is stuck in 3rd gear. Must be sorted, so I visit the dealer to get the problem fixed. With a smile on his face, the mechanic says, "Needs a new gearbox mate." I asked "How much will that cost?" "£1,250 for parts and labour, but I'll tell you what, as a favour to you for being a loyal customer, I'll sort it for a thousand."

'Polished and refined' feels a pit in my stomach. I have a problem.

- **'Motives of the Heart' 3-minute video** with John Matthews, this week talks about getting scissors and credit cards to connect with each other for those in serious debt. Do you borrow and spend, or save and invest?



LESSON 11. DEBT - A DAILY DECISION BY JOHN MATHEWS

Stewardship Ministries videos of the Sabbath School Adult Lesson Study Guide for the 1st Quarter of 2018 by John Mathews, author of the lessons. Use these ...

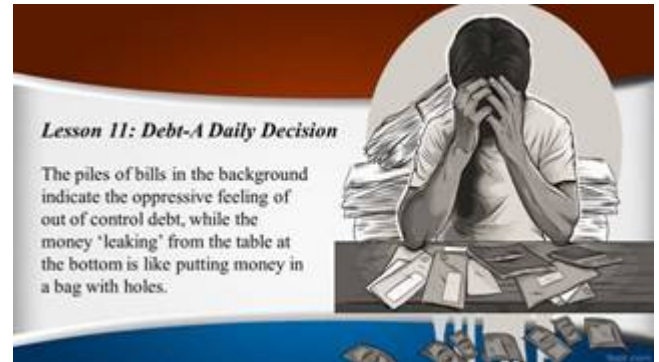
WATCH VIDEO

DOWNLOAD HD VIDEO

All video introductions for this series of lessons can be found at: <https://stewardship.adventist.org/online-videos?channel=1326917>

- **Lesson Notes (attached)**

Created for those who want to dig deeper into the Word. Authored by Shevanthi Bastiam Pillai. Class teacher or group leader? Don't miss these studies for providing both breadth and depth. Here's a thought from this week's notes:



"The world we live in considers getting into debt useful, even desirable, because it allows us to purchase things we desire. One statement that is often used to propagate this misleading notion is: 'Being in debt helps you to save...'. What is not mentioned is that the money you are saving is all going to pay off your debts! Getting into debt often leads to ruin and despair, particularly for low wage earners and the very poor. It is therefore necessary for us to have a Bible-based understanding of what God requires of us with regard to our finances. The Bible also has much to say about the injustice of a 'debt and interest' based economy."

- **5 Q's for Life Change**

This week's study attached – here's the opening icebreaker statement to get the conversation going:

British people are drowning in debt. The opener for the lesson this week gives some startling statistics. Are you among them?*

AND FINALLY

7 Rules to stop fighting about money in marriage:

1. Be generous givers.
2. Set financial goals.
3. Create a monthly savings plan and review regularly.
4. Keep joint accounts and no secrets.
5. Learn to live on one income early.
6. Give each person their own spending money or allowance.
7. Keep it simple and organised.

Read the details at: <https://christianpf.com/financial-practices-in-marriage/>

Cheers and best wishes,

David Neal | Stewardship director

Faithful stewardship – more than an optional Christian grace.

** If you have ever experienced financial difficulties, or are currently in a situation where your finances are out of control, don't delay in contacting your creditors. Where necessary, seek help from a debt counselling service. [Read more](#)*