

# Bankruptcy of Our Nation: Your Financial Survival Guide

## Study Guide

### *Chapter 1 – What is Money...Really?*

1. In Chapter 1, Jerry Robinson explains the three fundamental factors that impact our individual views of money. Take a moment to discuss each of these factors and how they have impacted your life.
2. How has the economic system of your nation affected your view of money?
3. In this chapter, the author tells a story about an elderly woman named Margaret whose entire adult life was deeply affected by her family's financial philosophies. How did your parents teach you to view money? How have your family's financial philosophies affected you and your views on finances?
4. If you have children, are you satisfied with the financial philosophy that they are learning from you and your spouse? If not, what steps can you take to change this?
5. In your own words, what gives the U.S. Dollar (or the currency in your country) its value?

### *Chapter 2 – A Short History of Fiat Currencies*

1. Do you ever think about how much faith you must have to operate in the money/economic system? In what or whom must we put faith in order to be a part of the economy?
2. What does the chapter say is God's view of fiat currency? Do you agree with what the chapter says?
3. Do you desire to live free from deception? Do you find it difficult to know you have been deceived?
4. If you are living in a system that is an abomination to God, how does it affect your standing before God if you are living in it?
5. If you don't know you are "in" the system, is it possible to "not be of it"?

### *Chapter 3 – The Rise and Fall of the Golden Permission Slip*

1. Before reading this chapter, did you believe the U.S. Dollar was backed by gold and/or silver? Why or why not?
2. Why was the Bretton Woods arrangement so beneficial for the U.S. Dollar?
3. List some of the government policies throughout the 1960s and 1970s that led to the breakdown of the Bretton Woods arrangement?
4. As a believer in the Bible, what are your feelings toward the "closing of the gold window"? How is this similar to defaulting on debt?
5. According to Robinson, why did President Nixon and his administration decide to close the gold window and end the gold standard? Why didn't Nixon want the dollar to be "as good as gold" anymore?

A crumpled US dollar bill, likely a one-dollar bill, is shown in the background. The bill is heavily wrinkled and folded, with the portrait of George Washington visible. The text of the chapter title is overlaid on this image.

## *Chapter 4 – The Petrodollar System: Same Game with a New Name*

1. In your own words, explain the Petrodollar system.
2. What are the four primary benefits to America from the Petrodollar system?
3. What do the oil producing nations gain from the system?
4. Name some goods or services that have increased in price during your lifetime. Why do you think these particular items have increased?
5. Before reading this chapter, what was your view of U.S. relations with Israel? How has this information changed your view?

## *Chapter 5 – Petrodollar Wars: Protecting Dollar Demand through the Barrel of a Gun*

1. Before reading this chapter, were you aware of the U.S. military presence in over 130 countries? According to Jerry Robinson, why do we need these bases around the globe?
2. Why do you think the majority of U.S. foreign policy is focused on the Middle East?
3. Read Matthew 5:38-48. According to this passage, what *should* be a Christian's attitude toward those who plotted and carried out the horrendous acts of 9/11?
4. Before reading this chapter, what did you believe was the reason for the United States' war with Iraq?
5. After reading this chapter, why do you believe the United States went to war with Iraq? Can you justify this war as a believer in Christ? Why or why not?
6. What was one of the first changes implemented in Iraq in the initial weeks of the American invasion? How does this alter your view of the war in Iraq?

## *Chapter 6 – The History of the Federal Reserve (or How America Lost the Revolutionary War)*

1. According to Jerry Robinson, how did the U.S. lose the Revolutionary War?
2. What do you think modern-day politicians would say about Washington's quote, "No generation has the right to contract debts greater than can be paid off during the course of its own existence"?
3. Do you think this generation will be able to pay off the current debt?
4. Why do you think the Constitution did not allow for printing of paper money?
5. Before reading this chapter, did you believe that the Federal Reserve was a government entity? Why or why not?





## *Chapter 7 – Modern Money Mechanics: What the Banksters Do Not Want You to Know*

1. Why do you think the government pays interest to the Federal Reserve for the currency that it creates when the government could save interest by printing its own currency?
2. Find a dollar bill and take a look. What does it say at the very top? Who is the owner of that dollar bill?
3. How does it make you feel to realize that a U.S. dollar bill is a piece of debt? How does this change your view of *earning* “money”?
4. When you take on a mortgage for a home, the bank loans you the principal. Where do you obtain the interest to pay the bank?
5. What is the purpose of the FDIC? How does your perception change after learning that the FDIC is bankrupt?
6. After reading this chapter, would you agree that bankruptcies and foreclosures are a necessary part of our economic system? As a believer, how does this change your opinion of America’s economic system?
7. Read Deuteronomy 25:13-16; how are the current money mechanics a false weight and balance?

## *Chapter 8 – America: The Greatest Debtor Nation in World History*

1. Name some things you enjoy daily that are provided by the government.
2. Considering the scripture, “the borrower is a slave to the lender,” how do you make sense of where our nation stands and how do you get out from under this slavery?
3. As Christians, what are we entitled to from the government?
4. What do you need to change in your life or belief system in light of your answer to the previous question?
5. If the church were to fulfill its duty to care for the “widows and orphans”, how do you think that would affect government spending and debt levels?
6. What is the difference between fiscal and monetary policy, and who is in charge of each?

## *Chapter 9 – The Retirement Crisis*

1. What is the significance of Kathleen Casey-Kirschling to the discussion of the national debt?
2. How does it make you feel (or how would it make you feel) when you purchase a big-ticket item, such as a big screen TV or living furniture set, on credit and don’t have the money in the bank to pay for it?
3. How is the 2036 Crisis similar to the scenario discussed in the previous question? How is it different?
4. How old will you be in the year 2036? Reflecting on the material in this chapter, how do you think the U.S. economy will have changed by then?
5. In your own words, explain Social Security. What does it mean to you and your family?



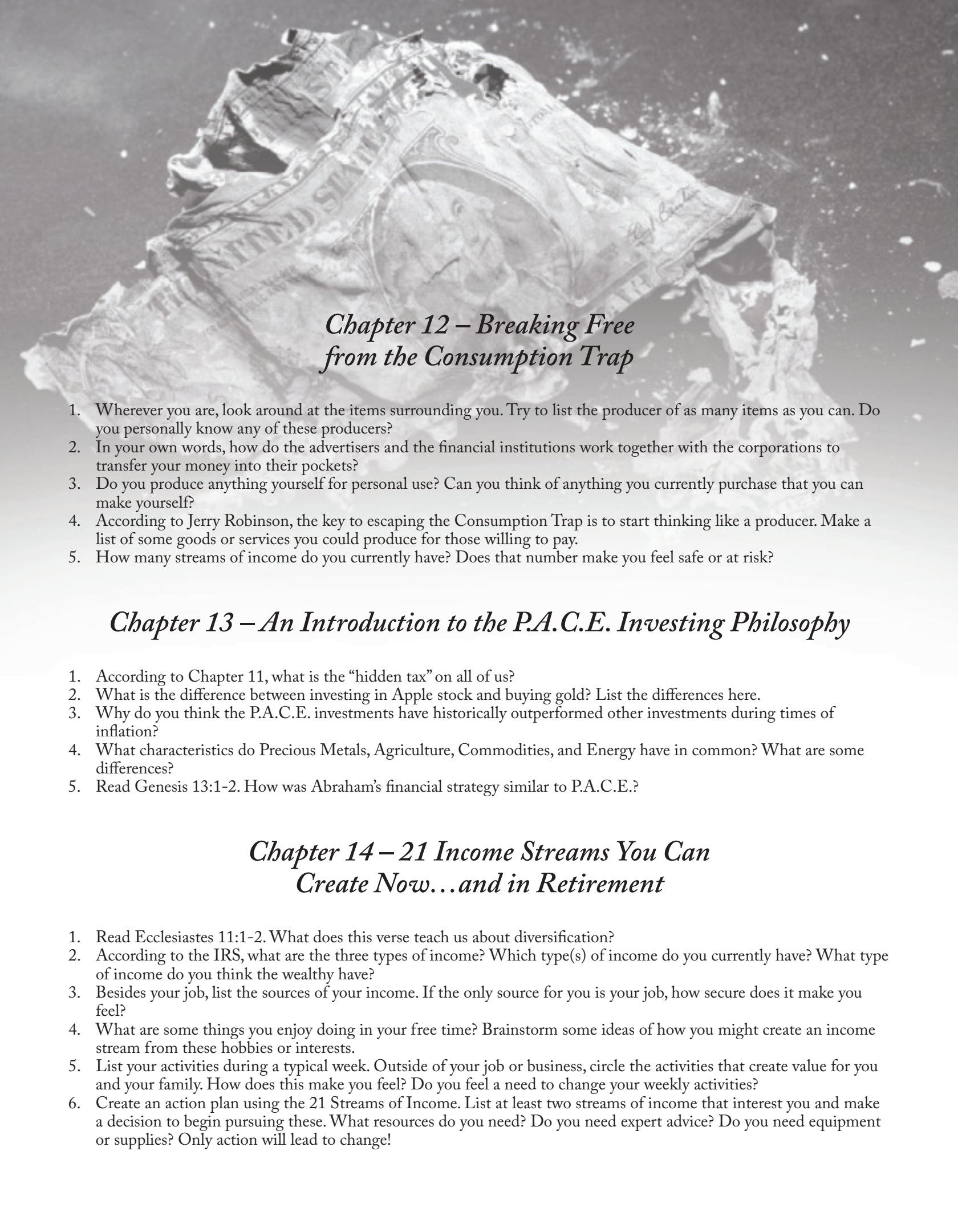
## *Chapter 10 – The Coming American Hyperinflation and Dollar Collapse*

1. Even though the United States has massive economic and fiscal problems, why do you think the dollar is still perceived as “safe” throughout the world?
2. According to Jerry Robinson, what is the best indicator that the collapse of the dollar is on the horizon? What are some of the things that may happen after this event?
3. Before reading this book, what did you know about inflation? How would you now define inflation in your own words?
4. What are the three options available to an individual or family who needs more money?
5. What are the options available to the government when it needs more money?
6. Why do you think foreign investors (China, Japan, UK) are thinking twice about buying U.S. debt?
7. Who is the “lender of last resort” to the United States government? How does this lender *always* have the funds to purchase the debt?

## *Chapter 11 – Maxed Out: The New American Slavery*

1. What comes to your mind when you think of slavery? Is there anything in your life to which you might now consider yourself a slave?
2. If you belong to or attend a church, what signs of consumerism do you notice in the church (*if your answer is none, we applaud your church!*)? What about in your school or your children’s schools?
3. What is your incentive or reason for saving money? If you do not save, why not?
4. Make a list of your monthly expenses (yes, include that daily Starbucks latte). Is there anything on this list that you can eliminate or reduce in order to begin saving or save more each month?
5. If you or a family member has a recent paycheck stub, take a look at it now. What percentage of your paycheck goes toward taxes every month? What does this do to your incentive to earn more income?





## *Chapter 12 – Breaking Free from the Consumption Trap*

1. Wherever you are, look around at the items surrounding you. Try to list the producer of as many items as you can. Do you personally know any of these producers?
2. In your own words, how do the advertisers and the financial institutions work together with the corporations to transfer your money into their pockets?
3. Do you produce anything yourself for personal use? Can you think of anything you currently purchase that you can make yourself?
4. According to Jerry Robinson, the key to escaping the Consumption Trap is to start thinking like a producer. Make a list of some goods or services you could produce for those willing to pay.
5. How many streams of income do you currently have? Does that number make you feel safe or at risk?

## *Chapter 13 – An Introduction to the P.A.C.E. Investing Philosophy*

1. According to Chapter 11, what is the “hidden tax” on all of us?
2. What is the difference between investing in Apple stock and buying gold? List the differences here.
3. Why do you think the P.A.C.E. investments have historically outperformed other investments during times of inflation?
4. What characteristics do Precious Metals, Agriculture, Commodities, and Energy have in common? What are some differences?
5. Read Genesis 13:1-2. How was Abraham’s financial strategy similar to P.A.C.E.?

## *Chapter 14 – 21 Income Streams You Can Create Now...and in Retirement*

1. Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-2. What does this verse teach us about diversification?
2. According to the IRS, what are the three types of income? Which type(s) of income do you currently have? What type of income do you think the wealthy have?
3. Besides your job, list the sources of your income. If the only source for you is your job, how secure does it make you feel?
4. What are some things you enjoy doing in your free time? Brainstorm some ideas of how you might create an income stream from these hobbies or interests.
5. List your activities during a typical week. Outside of your job or business, circle the activities that create value for you and your family. How does this make you feel? Do you feel a need to change your weekly activities?
6. Create an action plan using the 21 Streams of Income. List at least two streams of income that interest you and make a decision to begin pursuing these. What resources do you need? Do you need expert advice? Do you need equipment or supplies? Only action will lead to change!



## *Chapter 15 – Eight Key Strategies to Protect Your Finances*

1. List two ways in which you have decided to increase your financial education.
2. Go to [www.ftmdaily.com/giving](http://www.ftmdaily.com/giving). Download the Charitable Giving Worksheet and complete (with your spouse if married).
3. What is your current “profit rate”? How does this change your attitude toward saving money?
4. Based on the information in this book, why do you think it is wise to diversify your savings? Where do you hold your pool of savings currently?
5. Who owns your 401(k) or IRA plan? Knowing the fiscal irresponsibility of the federal government, how will you approach future contributions to your 401(k) or IRA?
6. List at least five action steps you can take, starting today, to protect your finances. Make a commitment to action, and share with your group. If possible, obtain an accountability partner to help and support you along the way.

For more information on Jerry Robinson's Five Levels of Financial Freedom, visit [www.ftmdaily.com/fivelevels](http://www.ftmdaily.com/fivelevels)

For free coaching on our Five Levels of Financial Freedom, call (800) 609-5530 Ext. #1 or email us at [info@ftmdaily.com](mailto:info@ftmdaily.com)

*The time for debate is over...the time to prepare is now.*