

"10% Of All You Earn Is Yours To Keep"

By Tom Norton, CPA, CDFA

As you are planning your financial future, you'll want to make sure you are saving for the future.

For a great book on the importance of saving, get *The Richest Man in Babylon* by George Clason. It's in story form, it's not very long, and you'll learn timeless principles for personal financial management.

The recurring theme of the book is that "10% of all you earn is yours to keep." The idea is to save 10% of your gross income, even while paying off debt and meeting your monthly expenses.

Just imagine if you had always saved 10% of your gross income. How much would you have now?

If you didn't do that, it's not too late. The Chinese have a saying: "The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second best time is today."

If 10% seems too daunting, start with 1%. But get started. You can always increase the amount later.

The other theme of *The Richest Man in Babylon* is to pay off your existing debt, and avoid borrowing money in the future. By borrowing money, you become a slave to the lender.

Think how much stress and hardship we could avoid if we all followed these two simple rules: 10% of all you earn is yours to keep, and stay out of debt.

For more information:

[The Divorce Financial Survival Series](#)