

# Mammon

*Matthew 6:24 (amp) “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon** [money, possessions, fame, status, or whatever is valued more than the Lord].”*

***mammon** is an Aramaic word, meaning **riches** (treasures, possessions.)*

**Bible historian William Barclay writes:**

Mammon was the wealth which a man entrusted to someone to keep safe for him. But as the years went on mammon (possessions) came to mean, not to be entrusted, **but THAT in which a man puts his trust IN**. When a man puts his trust in material things, then material things have become, not his support, but his god.

Jesus suggests that it is possible to serve mammon (riches) instead of serving God, but He states it is impossible to serve both at the same time. *You **CANNOT** serve God **AND** mammon.*

According to Jesus, there is no middle ground!  
*We will be **devoted** to one and **despise** the other.*

*No one can serve two masters. Gk: **serve** to be a **slave to**. Gk: **master** is **absolute ownership**.*

**Translation:** no one can be a slave to two owners!

In regard to our relationship with Jesus, He is the undisputed master of our lives.

The Christian life is not a partial or a spasmodic lifestyle.

*Luke 9:23 (erv) (Jesus) “Any of you who want to be My follower must stop thinking about yourself and what you want. You must be willing to carry the cross that is given to you every day for following Me.*

*(See Luke 9:24-25, 14:27; 33, John 12:24-26; 15:4-8, Galatians 2:20; 5:24-25)*

## **THE ‘SPIRIT’ OF MAMMON SEEKS TO INFLUENCE.**

Pursuing mammon reveals the ‘spirit’ of the fallen world that opposes God.

Riches and possessions that are valued more than God reveals an allegiance to the ‘spirit’ behind mammon rather than the Spirit of God!

Money and possessions that is submitted to God and His purposes is blessed by God.

*Proverbs 11:25 (gnb) Be generous, and you will be prosperous, help others, and you will be helped.*

The spirit of mammon declares our riches, possessions and our lifestyles is all we need.

**Only God can provide; security, significance, identity, forgiveness and freedom.**

**MONEY IS NOT EVIL.**

*1 Timothy 6:10 For the **LOVE** of money is a root of all kinds of evil.*

The Bible doesn't say that money **is** the root of all kinds of evil. Rather, the idolatrous love of money is **a** root of all kinds of evil which is motivated by the spirit of mammon.

Greed, covetousness, and selfishness are all manifestations of the spirit of mammon.

For the Christ follower, accumulating possessions, money and material things is not a sin, but it does come with great responsibility.

This accumulation becomes a matter of prayer in how we are to use our wealth and possessions for God and His purposes.

Paul remembered a saying of Jesus:

*"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35*

**God's nature is all about giving.**

If our nature becomes a giving nature like God's, we will be blessed, however much or little it may be.

## **ALL THINGS BELONG TO GOD.**

*Psalms 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.*

*Psalms 50:10 For every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.*

*Psalms 50:12b "for the world and all that is in it is mine."*

Jesus teaches: The master gives his servants the talents (*Matthew 25:15*). The owner gives the landowner the vineyard (*Matthew 21:33*).

**Principle:** God the Creator is the ultimate owner of all things!

We are to steward (manage) God's property as He requires us to!

It is not how much we have that matters - it is whose it is and how we use it as God instructs.

### **Questions:**

- Who is our master when it comes to our possessions and money?

- What or who influences our decisions when it comes to our money and possessions?
- Do we use what God has allowed us to steward for Him for His purposes or ours!

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