

ARE YOU SERVING GOD OR MAMMON?

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**“No man can serve two masters: for either he
Will hate the one, and love the other, or else
He will hold to the one, and despise the other.
Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”**

♥ Matthew 6:24

This is a verse of scripture that most Christians are familiar with yet we rarely hear a sermon preached on the subject today. One of the reasons why this is true I believe is because most of the Balaam Networks (a.k.a. Christian television) preach a gospel that encourages you to worship mammon. That's because they are following what the Apostle Peter prophesied would occur in the Last Days—“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you ... in their greed they will exploit you with false words ... they have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing,” --2 Peter 2:1-3, 14-15

Several years ago I preached a message at our church in Montana and I mentioned having received a certain magazine from a faith ministry for the New Year and the “theme” was something like “2006, the year of overflow”

or “the year of blessing” and I’d noticed over the years that every year they were the same with a few changes in words. I commented, “How come we never see from any of these ministries, ‘This is 2007, the year to repent and get right with God?’” No, it’s always about Mammon in some form. And this is at odds with the Holy Spirit and what Jesus taught in Mt. 6:24.

The literal Greek, ἀνθέξεται, Jesus is talking about in Mt. 6 implies “one against the other”; in other words, if you wish to serve God you must be against mammon. Jesus taught a lot about mammon and money; that’s because it was one of the gods of the people, especially the religious leaders. The Greek word for mammon, μαμωνᾶς, comes from the Aramaic word which literally means “wealth or riches.” Jesus said you could not serve both! The Lord always gives us a choice; that’s because of our free will but we must choose.

Most Christians don’t realize the extent to which many ministries are violating this scripture. Many are doing it for wealth and many are doing it because they are being deceived but if you look at the Bible ministry models you don’t see “mammon” as being a consideration. I emphasized this fact in one ministry model, that of Elijah, that I preached on in Alabama in October. Elijah’s ministry is one most Christians would acknowledge was very powerful yet they’ve never studied his ministry *model* enough to see how it contradicts most of what we see today. Money was never a factor in Elijah’s ministry; it didn’t enter into his decision making process. The same is true for Elisha, Samuel, Paul, John and many others we see throughout the Scriptures.

Yet for decades we’ve had many, many in ministry who place financial limits on whether they will come minister at your church—your pastor has to guarantee them \$1,500 or more, give them a suite at the hotel, etc. What nonsense! The real question is: what is the will of God? If He wants to send me to Alaska or Hawaii for an assignment then what does money have to do with it? Am I going to be so bold (and foolish) as to say to God,

“Well, I’ll go if you guarantee me \$5,000.” This is very basic to genuine ministry and you need to understand it or you’ll never walk in the heavy anointing God has for you to minister under. Because if you operate your ministry this way you’ll lose the anointing. And I think it’s easy to see that if you operate your ministry this way you are choosing Mammon as your god over the Lord Jesus Christ.

God is obligated by covenant to provide for you, clothe you, heal you as well as members of your family because you have spiritual authority where your own family is concerned but He’s not obligated to make you a millionaire and if you seek Mammon, even though initially you may be doing it innocently, you will be gradually led away from true spiritual worship into idolatry.

I want to encourage you throughout this new year to spend more time in worship, prayer and meditating in the Word of God so that you will be more prosperous. In addition, it is important that you worship the Lord with tithes and offerings but you need to pray and ask God where He wants you to invest His money so that you actually do receive a true blessing instead of a phony promise for a Balaam ministry about being rich.

In 1985 the Lord told me that “the two greatest (i.e., most numerous and dominant) spirits in operation in the earth today are religious spirits and deceiving spirits.” Don’t be deceived into worshiping Mammon.