



Berea Goshen Report

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Serving God, not Mammon

In the last teaching letter, we talked about how God

wants to serve you... to assist you reliably, willingly and lovingly. Here is how we concluded:

Let God serve you...let Him be your caddy, your coach by following Mary's advice in **John 2:5: Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it.** Go it. Say it. Be it.

This time let's talk about you serving God. **Matthew 6:24** quotes Jesus as saying: **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.**

Jesus flatly said **NO MAN CAN** serve two masters! Not possible. There are 4 additional truths here.

#1: There are 2 masters. Only two masters. Not three, four or five. Only two are available.

#2: Every man and woman (the man with a womb) is a servant to one of the masters! Therefore, none of the masters is human! That means you are NOT one of them! Neither am I. You and I may be the heads of our families or a boss at work but we are not masters of our families or employees, neither can be. The idea of the self-made man is a myth...Everyman has an overlord, a master. The question is which one of the 2 masters is it or will it be? God serves us by His choice but we are born servants by design and by nature but with the right to choose our master.

#3: The two options are God and Mammon...not God and Satan! I would have thought that Jesus would say God and Satan but He did not do so... deliberately. Instead, Jesus used the word "mammon" in order to decode Satan and reveal one of his modes of operation. Jesus blew the devil's cover for us.

Mammon is a synonym of Satan! A tool of Satan. So, what is mammon? **Mammon is the material realm. Money and what it can buy.** "Things." As **1 John 2:15, 16** says:

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Or is of the world's system set up and manipulated by Satan to maintain control. He is the god of this world according to **2 Corinthians 4:4.**

Satan uses mammon to entice and then entrap people. He uses the material realm as bait. He promises fame and fortune in exchange for obeisance and service. **1Tim 6:10** says the love of money, not money but the love of it, is the **root** of all evil...the enticement to commit evil. The motivation.

God, however, uses His goodness and love to draw people. According to **Romans 2:4**, it is the goodness of God that leads people to repentance. Then God intends to give them money to serve, bless and help other people. Whereas the devil uses money to imprison people, God uses money to liberate them.

Deuteronomy 8:18 says:

But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth that He may establish His covenant which he sware unto thy fathers...

There's just one thing...you and I must pass a test in order to get the wealth to help establish the covenant of salvation. This is a 1-question test that we have to pass over and over again:

Will we serve God or serve Mammon? This is an important issue in almost every decision we make every day! That brings us lastly to truth #4.

#4: No one can love (serve) both God and Mammon...OR hate them both...**OR** be on the fence! Numerous scriptures speak directly to this truth or allude to it. For example, God

instructed the people in **Joshua 24:14, 15** to "...choose you this day whom ye shall serve..." James 4:4 says that "...friendship of the world is enmity with God..." God said in **Deuteronomy 30:19** "...I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing...choose life..." God recommends actively choosing life because the default or "fence" choice is the devil, death and cursing!

Several scriptures warn about the dangers of serving mammon or lucre. In **1 Samuel 8:3** Samuel's sons "...turned aside after lucre, took bribes..." and disqualified themselves from being Judges. Deacons, bishops and elders are not to be guilty of "...filthy lucre..." according to **1 Timothy 3:3, 8** and **Titus 1:7** and **1 Pet 5:2**. Ministers are not to be "...deceivers, teaching things ...for filthy lucre's sake." Now to the nitty-gritty. Where the "Amens" shouldn't but may die down.

How to serve God not Mammon (How to shun the love of money)

One way is to be a tither. This is a critical line of attack!

Tithing is a matter of honoring God and trusting Him, not Mammon. It is a matter of showing gratitude to God. Tithing shows Mammon who the boss is! Tithing makes a mockery of the speech Mammon gives us:

"You need me! You don't have enough of me. So, you must keep the little bit of me you have! You can't give me away, not even to God! Who is going to pay your bills, take care of your children, of you when you get old? Get all of me you can and can all of me you get and then sit on the can so no one can get to me because you need me!"

Tithing says what you have to have is God, not Mammon!

Some say tithing is Old Testament law! Wrong! Thank God! Everyone who understands the benefits of tithing knows that no deal on Wall Street comes anywhere close! Fortunately, tithing was not only Old Testament but it is also New Testament. There was tithing **BEFORE THE LAW**. Such as in the Garden of Eden. God taught Adam and Eve to tithe. That was one reason why they were not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil but could eat of all the other trees. Cain's sacrifice was unacceptable because it was not a tithe unlike his brother's. In **Genesis 14:20**...Abraham gave Melchizedek, priest of the most high God, tithes of all. There

was tithing obviously **DURING THE LAW**. But there is also tithing **IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**. Jesus taught tithing in **Mathew 23:23** and according to **Hebrews 7: 1-17**...Jesus receives tithes today!

Malachi 3:8, 9 says that you are a thief as a believer if you do not tithe. A robber! You are robbing God of the opportunity to be involved in your finances. I hope I am preaching to the choir right about here! Unfortunately, chances are that I am not! 2 out of 3 of you reading this newsletter do not tithe.

A **2/3rds majority** of believers respond to the teaching of tithing like unbelievers respond to the grace of God...with excuses! Is that too blunt? Forgive me, but the times and the issue demands bluntness. The lost say "if God exists, why is there so much suffering in the world? Or they say, "why do bad things happen to good people?" That one is easy...because "good" people make bad decisions! Or they say, "I don't want to be one of the hypocrites!" So, they walk off and leave a heavenly deal on the table!

You say, "I can't afford to tithe!" **The truth is that you can't afford NOT to tithe!** Can you afford to keep serving Mammon? The Lord has been patient. Do you dare rob God any further? Consider also that God can't afford for you not to tithe...He needs more gospel financiers. He only has one of three believers right now!

I challenge you to prove God in this (**Malachi 3:10**). **Don't try tithing. Commit to tithing forever**, become a co-laborer with Jesus and watch your finances steadily improve. **Take it from this ex-ghetto man, it works!** God is not a man that He should lie. A man of God who is now in heaven was fond of saying "promises, promises, God's promises. He makes them and He keeps them." He really does!

2025!

Still The YEAR OF FLOURISHING!

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