

**God's Principles and Priorities on  
Time, Talent and Treasure**  
**Part 1. Financial stewardship, money, giving and blessing**  
*(A Biblical perspective taken from The Blessed Life by Robert Morris)*

## **Lesson V – The Spirit of Mammon**

### **Breaking the Spirit of Mammon**

- Christ warns against mammon - Luke 16:10-14 (ASV, KJV, NKJV)
- *Mammon* was the name of the Syrian god of “riches and money” and the name of a demon in Milton’s *Paradise Lost* and Spenser’s *Faerie Queene* <sup>1</sup>
- In the biblical sense of the word, *mammon* is the spirit which rests on money
- All money has a spirit impacting it – either God’s spirit or the spirit of mammon

### **The Rule of Mammon**

- Mammon[Satan] is in direct contrast to the Spirit of God
  - Mammon says “buy and keep” - God says “sow and reap”
  - Mammon says “cheat and steal” – God says “give and receive”
- Mammon is looking for servants – it wants to rule your life and take the place of God (Luke 16:13)
- Mammon promises only what God can give
  - Security, Significance, Identity, Independence, Power and Freedom
- Mammon is “selfish” and God is “generous”
- Mammon either tries to insulate us from life’s problems or get us to dwell on them
- *Money is not our security – God is*

### **The “voice” of Mammon**

- Mammon is always “speaking” to us – trying to confuse us regarding God’s principles
- Mammon especially talks to us when we are trying to give to the Lord
- Mammon is always trying to prevent or discourage us from giving and being generous

### **Is Money Evil?**

- Money is not evil, the *love of money* is evil – I Timothy 6:10
- Given the firstfruits principle, could *unrighteous mammon* be money that has not been redeemed?
- How are we to respond? I Timothy 6:7-11, Hebrews 13:5-6

### **True Riches**

- Money can be used for righteous or unrighteous uses
- God wants us to use our money to win souls and build His kingdom, not to build “our kingdom”
- God takes our money, “blesses it”, and turns it into “souls”
- The more we give - the more opportunity for souls to be won
- God is looking for people he can entrust with “much” – Luke 16:10, Matthew 25:18-23

### **Mammon has Friends – Pride, Greed and Poverty** (perspective from the book)

- There are a couple of other spirits that run in the company of Mammon – Pride, Greed & Poverty
- The *spirit* of Poverty will cause you to be ashamed of the blessings of God
- The *spirit* of Pride does not acknowledge God for His blessings
- The *spirit* of Greed causes us to hold on to all that we have or seek even more
- When someone says “that’s a nice car you have”
  - Pride says “it’s that newest import and it is loaded with all the options, I paid a bundle for it”
  - Poverty says “we bought it from my brother to help him out, its really a piece of junk and was really cheap”
  - Greed says, “don’t even think of borrowing it”
  - Gratitude says “Thank you”

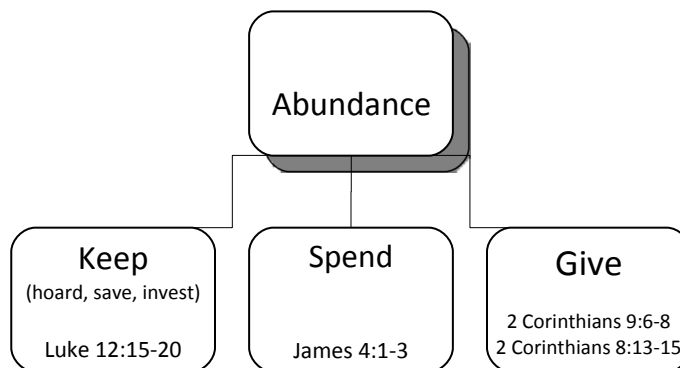
## The Comparison Trap

- Pride causes us to compare ourselves with others
- Poverty causes us to compare others with ourselves
- Greed doesn't care
- Pride and poverty have this in common – they both always get us comparing ourselves with others
- Don't fall into the comparison trap

## Rightly Relating to 'Things'

- God not only uses our stuff to test us, but He'll use other peoples' stuff as well (Deuteronomy 5:21)
- How we respond to someone else being blessed says a lot about the condition of our hearts
- God doesn't care if we have stuff, he cares if our stuff has us
- A persons net worth doesn't tell you anything about his heart
- God wants us seek after Him, it's the *heart* that matters (Matthew 6:33)

What do we do with abundance?



*We must ask God to make us aware of indicators in our life that we are looking to others or depending on money rather than looking to Him and depending on Him as our source of provision*  
*We must also discern the presence of the spirit of pride or poverty in our lives*

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<sup>1</sup> **Mammon** The god of this world. The word in Syriac means riches. (See *Milton: Paradise Lost*, bk. i. 678.) His speech in the council is book ii. 229, etc. *Mammon*. In Spenser's *Faërie Queene*, Mammon says if Sir Guyon will serve him he shall be the richest man in the world; but the knight says money has no charm for him. Mammon then takes him to his smithy, and tells him he may make what orders he likes, but Guyon declines to make any. The god then offers to give him Philotine to wife, but Guyon will not accept the honour. Lastly, he takes him to Proserpine's bower, and tells him to pluck the golden fruit, and rest on the silver stool; Sir Guyon again refuses, and after three days' sojourn in the infernal regions is led back to earth. (ii. 7.)

**Mammon of Unrighteousness** (*The*). Money. A Scripture phrase (Luke xvi. 9). Mammon was the Syrian god of wealth, similar to Plutus of Greek and Roman mythology.

- Taken from *The First Hypertext Edition of The Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* by E. COBHAM BREWER From the New and Enlarged Edition of 1894