

## Whom Do We Serve?

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*“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will stand by and be devoted to the one and despise and be against the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (deceitful riches, money, possessions, or whatever is trusted in).” (Matthew 6:24, Amplified Bible)*

To serve means to *perform duties or services for somebody or something*. Ask any Christian if he is serving money, the answer is very likely an emphatic, “no ways”. And yet, how many duties or services do we perform daily for the sole purpose of getting money?

As individuals we usually work for money to enable us to finance our current lives and lifestyles, whatever that entails. And most of us accept uncritically that we also have to make financial provision for times in need and our retirement. The rich seek to secure their wealth, the middle class dreams of becoming rich and the poor long for getting out of their daily hassle of making ends meet. Depending on our cultures, traditions and societies we tackle the challenges connected to those tasks, dreams and hopes differently, yet its all connected to money, all over the planet.

The world of corporations, businesses, banks and financial institutions is almost entirely driven by monetary profits. Every decision made, no matter the context, is measured against financial benefits. Lives and needs of individuals, though considered in a way, are by and large secondary to the ultimate goal of profit making.

Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and development agencies are supposed to do whatever they do for the benefit of the people they represent or take care off or target, without gaining financial profits from it. Yet, they are in desperate need of getting the money required to “run the show.” And while NGOs and development agencies can hardly afford to run deficits, governments don’t seem to care, offloading the heavy burden of uncontrollable national debt on their citizen’s shoulders.

So in one way or another, its all about money, all connected to money. Money rules the world. And mind you, for all of this we find good, logic and fine sounding arguments to the point of defending this inherently corrupt monetary system as essential, even though it systematically enslaves most people and destroys multitudes as the current financial crisis testifies on a world-wide scale. But those fielded arguments are not necessarily biblical.

“Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.” (Colossians 2:8, NLT-SE) That’s a tough word. Don’t get captured by what Christ did not say, rather hold on to what He did say. And Christ clearly said that we can’t serve both God and money. Yet, by definition, most of us do serve the latter by trying to serve the first.

So does that mean we should stop working, stop doing business, forget banking, governing, and all the rest of it altogether? No, thats not what it means. But it means that we have to check our motivation for what we are doing. Is money the driving force because we think without it we are doomed? Or is it God? Option 1 leaves us in charge, doing the planning, making decisions, and so forth, all based on what we see. Here we are essentially driven by fear and distrust. Option 2 leaves God in charge, doing the planning, making decisions, and we follow His instructions, believing that He will orchestrate our provision as He promised in Matthew 6:33. Thats what serving Him means. Literally. Its an expression of faith and trust in God Almighty!

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So, whom do we serve?