

MAMMON

Mammon is a transliteration of the Aramaic word mammon, which means wealth, riches, or earthly goods. It is an idol that can easily capture the hearts of men and cause them to make choices that put them in opposition to God. In fact, the Bible warns that we must choose between God and this idol:

Luke 16:13

“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

Money (wealth) by itself is not evil, but it has the ability to turn a person’s heart from the Lord. Those who have a strong attachment to and desire for money open the doors to foolish temptations that can have disastrous consequences.

1 Timothy 6:9-10

“But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.”

When money becomes so important, like any other idol, it starts to control us. It becomes our friend in place of God.

James 4:4

“You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

It can cause you to turn from God in your heart and, like the Pharisees, not even want to hear the truth.

Luke 16: 14

“Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things, and they were scoffing at Him.”

Since this idol can have such a powerful effect on man, it is something that all will often be tested in; a Mammon test. Basically, it tries to get you to compromise and choose wealth/finances over righteousness in daily choices – making us back off from what we know is right because it is more financially advantageous.

Luke 16:11

“If therefore you have not been faithful in the {use of} unrighteous mammon, who will entrust the true {riches} to you?”