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Mammon
and
What it Means

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Mammon and what it Means.

Topics.

- The meaning of the word mammon.
- An explanation of the mark of the beast.
- **Revelation 13:17:** so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast (the two horned beast like a lamb that spoke like a dragon) (v11) or the number of its name.

The statement, "no one might buy or sell except the have the mark of the beast," shows that this beast has absolute control over the wealth of the world. Revelation chapter seven and twenty-two speaks of God's faithful servants being sealed in their foreheads (i.e., had faith in Christ) which testified that they belonged to God. (Rev. 7:3) (Rev. 22:4). The power of Satan also has its seal, which in this context is money and profit. Mammon comes from the Greek word (*mammonas*) and means confidence. Figuratively wealth, (personified) and avarice, greed, and materialism (deified), it carries the idea of:

- Wealth being a false object of worship and devotion.
- A force that makes people try to become as rich as possible.
- The belief that this is the most important thing in life.
- Setting up worldly riches and materialism as an idol in the heart.
- Greed, and dishonest worldly gain.

In Revelation chapter eighteen the great city of Babylon with all its avarice and greed, is a symbol of the world given over to the spirit of mammon. Just as wisdom is personified in (Prov. 1:21-33), mammon is personified in the following words of Jesus:

- **Matthew 6:24:** No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money (mammon in KJV) (also Luke 16:13).

The focus here is of worldly riches being the supreme love and focus of the mind, and of worldly riches and materialism sitting as an idol in the heart, in contrast to God being the supreme love and focus of the mind and sitting not as an idol, but as King of the heart. It contrasts the worship of the material world and the worship of God and highlights the sinister and deceptive nature of materialism to seduce humanity away from God and eternal life, the true riches. Worship of mammon is not always through a continual lust for more money, it can show up in many ways, when we envy another person's wealth, crave more than we need or disobey God (i.e., act dishonestly, and deceive or oppress others) for greater gain and such like things. When we do these things, worldly riches sit as an idol in our hearts and our priorities are out of balance concerning the temporary wealth of this world and the eternal wealth of God's world.

The apostle Paul wrote:

- **1 Timothy 6:10:** The love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

When we love money more than we love God, it can be rightly said, the money is the idol of our heart, mind, and life. Solomon, the richest man in the world during his generation, wrote of the futility of chasing after money in the following verse:

- **Ecclesiastes 5:10:** He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. (Eccles. 5:10).

After years of hoarding worldly wealth to himself Solomon concluded whoever loves money and wealth never has enough, nor are they ever satisfied. This is because, lust of any kind is never satisfied no matter how much time or effort is poured into the pursuit of the object of lust. In the following verse Jesus rebukes the religious rulers who refused to hear His warning against choosing God over mammon:

- **Luke 16:14-15:** The Pharisees, who were lovers of money (mammon in KJV), heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God. (Luke 16:14-15)

The thing that is being exalted here is money over God. In the book of Luke Jesus tells a parable of a rich fool who lives to increase his wealth yet in the end he loses his soul because he was not rich toward God. (Luke 12:13-21). Jesus in the following verse warns of the deceitfulness of money and its ability to choke the Gospel and make it unfruitful.

- **Mark 4:19:** The cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. (Mark 4:19).

Mammon cannot produce peace in us, and it certainly cannot produce righteousness. The love of money shows that worldly riches are the king of our mind and heart, and not God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and that our priorities concerning our relationship to God are grossly out of balance.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
