

What God has NOT Joined Together

Serving God
and Mammon

Matthew 6:24

Introduction

We are continuing our 2026 theme. We are currently addressing things God has NOT joined together.

- Many of these lessons have been doctrinal errors, but today I want to go a different direction.
- I would like to focus on something that is a concern to all of us – materialism.
- **Matthew 6:24**, *No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*
- *Mammon is a term for money (ESV) or wealth (LSB, NASB)*
- The actual Greek word is *μαμωνᾶς*, mamōnas

What is materialism (mammon)?

AHD defines the term with 9 different definitions.

- The first addresses the belief that physical matter is the only reality and that all things can be explained naturally.
- 3. Concern for possessions or material wealth and physical comfort, especially to the exclusion of spiritual or intellectual pursuits.
- 5. The tendency to give undue importance to material interests as contrasted with spiritual concerns; devotion to the material nature and its wants

HarperCollins Publishers. "The American Heritage Dictionary Entry: Materialism."
Ahdictionary.Com, 2022, <https://ahdictionary.com/word/search.html?q=materialism>. Accessed 27
Aug. 2026.

What is materialism (mammon)?

Practically stated:

- IT is the pursuit of material things over spiritual matters.
- One who puts his possessions and their pursuits above God.
- **Matthew 19:21-22**, the rich, young ruler.
- He will elevate temporal and worldly things over eternal security and rewards.

What is materialism (mammon)?

- This is a major concern today because of the affluent society we live in. We have abundant access to wealth, luxuries and comforts. We are very comfortable in our homes, transportation, eating habits, travel, entertainment options, etc.
- AND compared to much of the world, we are among the wealthiest of societies.
- Add to this the prosperity gospel which promotes wealth and materialism as a reward from God.
IT is false and says you CAN serve God and mammon. And these are some of the most affluent “religious leaders” among us – Joel Osteen, TD Jakes, Kenneth Copeland, Benny Hinn, Creflo Dollar, etc.
- **1 Timothy 6:5**, speaks of those, *...suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.*

The Bible and materialism

- The Bible clearly warns against pursuing material wealth
- **1 Timothy 6:9-10** – the word *desire* means to want something strongly. It becomes so important you make it a priority of pursuit. It is not just seeking what you need or wisely preparing for the future (**Cf. Prov. 21:20, 13:22**). Pursuing wealth can lead to a trap that will devour you.
- *The love of money is the root of all (kinds of) evil.*

The Bible and materialism

- The Bible clearly warns against pursuing material wealth
- **Hebrews 13:5**, *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*
- **Luke 12:15**, *And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”*
- **Matthew 6:19-21** – *where is your treasure?*

The Bible and materialism

- Examples of choosing mammon in scripture
- **Balaam – Numbers 22-25, Jude 11, 2 Peter 2:15** – His greed caused him to look for a work around of God's will
- **Achan – Judges 7** – his actions caused others harm, and he was condemned and judged. He acted unethically – stealing, lying, etc.
- **Solomon – 1 Kings 11** – VERY wealthy and blessed by God. BUT his many worldly wives turned him away from God. Prosperity can lead one to forget God

The Bible and materialism

- Examples of choosing mammon in scripture
- **Gehazi – 2 Kings 5** – Elisha's servant after Naaman was healed. His was a deceitful pursuit of wealth. But God knows the heart!
- **Judas Iscariot – Matthew 26:4-15** – sold out his Lord for 30 pieces of silver. Even remorse did not undo the damage.
- **Ananias and Saphira – Acts 5** – They lied to God about their wealth. They were not honest in their dealings or profession.

Overcoming materialism

- First, understand that **having possessions or wealth is not wrong**. Money is morally neutral. It is about what you do with what you have.
- Many Biblical examples of the wealthy – Abraham, David, Job, Joseph of Arimathea, Barnabas HAD land, possibly Lydia, etc.
- Those with honestly gained wealth can do good and support the gospel and help the needy –

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Overcoming materialism

- **Contentment**
- To be content means you are satisfied where you are at. You seek to make the best of whatever life gives you.
- This does NOT mean you cannot better yourself while maintaining your faith.
- **1 Timothy 6:6-8** – godliness with contentment is great gain.
- **Proverbs 30:7-9** – Give me enough
- **Philippians 4:11-12** – Content in whatever state you find yourself in.

Overcoming materialism

- **Gratitude**
- Accompanying contentment, we need to be thankful for what we DO have.
- This is foundational to overcoming materialism.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:18** – in everything give thanks
- **Philippians 4:6-7** – be anxious for nothing... but with thanksgiving
- **Colossians 2:6-7** – walk in Christ abounding in thanksgiving
- “Count your blessings” – you always have more than someone else.

Overcoming materialism

- **Give**
- A key to overcoming materialism – be willing to share with others.
- **Hebrews 13:16** – with such sacrifices God is well pleased
- **1 John 3:17-18** – consider your brethren!
- Most financial advisors with a spiritual focus will include giving in your plan – it is SO important!
Proverbs 22:9, 19:17 – he lends to the Lord
- In your giving watch your attitude and motives.

Overcoming materialism

- **A proper perspective of stuff**
- “Stuff” is temporary. It will not last forever, and/or neither will you (physically)
- **1 Timothy 6:7** – we brought nothing into this world and will carry nothing out.
- **Matthew 6:19** – where is your treasure?
- **1 John 2:15-17** – the world is passing away.
- Rarely, if ever do material possessions provide lasting satisfaction – **1 Timothy 6:17** – uncertain.
Proverbs. 30:15, Ecclesiastes 5:10

Overcoming materialism

- **Know the dangers of materialism**
- Things (stuff) can become idols to us and cause us to forget God – **Colossians 3:5**
- It can bring sorrows because it does not provide real security or satisfaction. Often wealth affects relationships negatively.
- Solomon described it as vanity, emptiness. Note his conclusion – **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.**
- It can lead to missing out on spiritual blessings that stand in conflict with material pursuits – **Galatians 5:22-23, Proverbs 16:16** (wisdom); **Psalms 19:7** – the law of the LORD more desired; **1 Peter 1:7** – genuine faith, etc.
- Ultimately, it can cost you your soul!

Concluding thoughts

- Truly, God has NOT joined together Himself with mammon.
- Throughout our lives we are faced with choices. There are no more important choices than those involving our service to God.
Deuteronomy 30:19
- The choices you make have eternal consequences.

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Where is your treasure?