

CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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Working for Two Masters

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Have you ever worked for two different people at the same time in the same office? Talk about juggling your time! In a situation like that, each of the individuals you report to think that his or her individual projects are the most important. It makes it easier when the two individuals are on the same team and have the same priorities. But, it is nearly impossible when the two have different agendas and do not get along. Each will try to manipulate you to get work done. They will alternate between putting pressure on you and being extremely nice. Most of us would tell someone to avoid working simultaneously for two bosses who fight with each other.

Jesus would agree with that advice. In fact, He addressed this situation. His comments on avoiding fighting bosses did not center on the office. His comments centered on money. "No one can serve two masters. 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 both God and money" (Matt. 6:24, NIV).

Serving God and serving money are like mixing oil and water. They do not mix, no matter how hard you try! Do not misunderstand. God and money mix. In fact, God owns all of the money in the world (Ps. 24:1). It is serving God and money that do not mix. You must choose which one you will serve. The problem is not with the money. The problem is with us. We ask God to bless our checkbook, rather than using our checkbook to bless God.

Jesus said tremendous amounts about handling money. But His teaching was not simply theological. Jesus spoke practically about money because He knows that we need help. I regularly get asked about what type of investments are "good" investments. Consider Jesus' thoughts: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on

earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:19-21, NIV).

When you give to the Lord's work, you make eternal deposits in His heavenly kingdom. Every check to your church, missionary, and Christian school literally impacts people for eternity. If you let the offering plate pass you by on Sunday and put nothing in it, you just made a bad investment decision.

What does storing up treasures in heaven look like?

- You regularly pray for your pastor and missionaries.
- You give increasing amounts to your church and other ministries annually.
- You reduce your spending and pay off your credit card monthly. You minimize your spending to maximize your giving.
- You regularly use assets (house, car, savings) to further the Lord's work. You even look for ways to give them to ministry when you no longer need them.
- You include the Lord's work in your estate planning.

God wants you to serve Him. He wants to be your boss. That means you must stop working for money and start making eternal investments. Year-end is coming up. What kind of investment choices will YOU make between now and December 31st?

BBC Foundation has been ministering to churches and individuals regarding biblical stewardship since 1992. Send your questions on finances and stewardship to: BBC Foundation, 538 Venard Rd., Clarks Summit, PA 18411. Phone: (800) 451-8668, website: bbcfoundation.org; e-mail: info@bbcfoundation.org