

Church in Regina

Special Topic: Deliverance from Mammon and Looking Up to the Father as the Source

Today there are only *two ways to serve*. Either one **serves God**, or he **serves mammon**. Of all the Christians in the whole world, perhaps eighty percent serve mammon. Of the remaining twenty percent, perhaps eighteen percent serve both mammon and God. It is difficult to find a few persons who will serve God only. In the past we never mentioned the matter of mammon. On the one hand, it was because we were not faithful. On the other hand, it was because mammon is a difficult subject to talk about. Mammon itself is unrighteous. **A Christian should not only consider it wrong to make money by unrighteous means, but should realize that making money itself is improper.** It is not a matter of much money or little money. God's Word says that we cannot serve God even by making money by righteous means. If a person has not settled this matter, he has not settled the most basic issue. God made all things from one, and money unifies all things into one. God created all things, and money can procure all things. Any thought of making money is a sign of serving mammon. Rice costs three million dollars a basket. If we try to make three million dollars to buy the rice, we are serving mammon. Where are we going to make our money? Will we not feel ashamed to make money from our brothers? Can we make money from the unbelievers?

All proper occupations extract riches from nature itself; they do not extract riches from others' pockets. For example, if there are two billion people on the earth and everyone has a dollar in his pocket, the total wealth of the world would be two billion dollars. If I try to make money, I have to cause the money in my pocket to increase. In order for the money in my pocket to increase, the money in the pockets of others has to decrease. How can a Christian put others' money into his own pocket? Is it becoming for a child of God to do this? Any kind of money-making is a reduction of others' wealth and an increase in one's own wealth. **What we have to do is to increase the natural wealth on this earth.** Why do we have to increase our own wealth at the expense of others' wealth? How can a Christian do such a shameful thing?

Rejecting Occupations of a Purely Commercial Nature

All the occupations in the Bible derive their riches from nature. The fishermen derive their wealth from the sea. The farmers derive their wealth from the land. These occupations increase one's own wealth without decreasing others' wealth. **It is all right for us to increase our own wealth, but not at the expense of others' wealth.** The increase of the herd of Abraham and Isaac was a blessing from God (Gen. 24:35; 26:12). But the increase of the herd of Jacob came from Laban (30:37-43). The increase in the herd of Abraham and Isaac was right, but the increase in the herd of Jacob was wrong, because in making the increase, he did injustice to Laban. Today there are many people like Jacob. If this problem is not solved, we cannot serve God in a proper way. As a minimum requirement, we cannot engage ourselves in money-making jobs. We have to reject any work that is purely commercial in its nature.

Ezekiel 28 speaks of the king of Tyre, who typifies Satan. He fell because of the multitude of his merchandise. **Merchandising is a purely commercial activity.** Ezekiel 28 is the record of the first commerce, whereas Revelation 18 is the record of the final commerce. Ezekiel 28 is the beginning of world commerce, whereas Revelation 18 is the consummation of world commerce. Revelation 18:11 speaks of "the merchants of the earth." "Merchants" refers to great entrepreneurs. Antichrist will use Babylon to carry out his commercial activities. Pure commerce is not just a matter of money, nor is it a matter of gold or silver. Rather, it is a question of where the money is coming from. Today we have to pay attention to how money comes in. It is all right for me to increase my wealth, but I cannot decrease society's wealth. For example, to turn iron into steel is to contribute something to society, and such kinds of work are proper.

Today our thoughts have to be controlled by God. Those who are for money see nothing but money. They do not see how many fishes have been added; they only see how many dollars have come in. **Pure commerce is too great a temptation for man.** This is why we have to make a complete change in many things in the days ahead.

The Jews were originally farmers, tillers, shepherds, and laborers. But after they became degraded and were scattered into the nations, they became the most numerous and powerful merchants on earth. In the Old Testament God allotted the lands to the Israelites and charged every one of them to work on their own land. The Jews learned the lesson through this, and they did not want to work for others or to have others work for them. They preferred to manage their own business... **This is a serious hurdle, and one that is difficult to overcome. We have to ask God to turn our thoughts around. It is wrong to make money. Somehow, we have to be delivered from money** (Excerpts from The Resumption of Watchman Nee's Ministry CWWN, vol. 57).

Local Announcements:

1. Sisters' Meeting—Jan. 14
2. Prayer Mtg—Jan. 16 by Groups
(Grp 1 zoom; Grp 2 in-person)
3. UofR Bible Distribution—Jan. 19
4. Churching (Lloydminster)—
Jan. 21
5. NEW MR—Vol2 An Overview of
the Central Burden & Present
Truth of the Lord's Recovery...

Conferences and Trainings Information:

1. Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference—Feb.10-11, Taipei, Taiwan
2. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Apr.12-14, Anaheim, CA
3. Memorial Day Blending Conference—May 24-27, Bellevue, WA
4. Summer Training—July 1-6, Anaheim, CA
5. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Oct.4-6, Warsaw, Poland
6. Thanksgiving Blending Conference—Nov.28-Dec.1, Atlanta, GA
7. Winter Training—Dec.23-28, Anaheim, CA

Prayer Burdens

1. Lord, cause us to have a single eye focused on You. We consecrate ourselves to be absolutely to You that we would receive Your shining.
2. Save us from serving mammon. Our only interest is Your interest. We store up our treasure where You are. Lord, continue to direct our hearts towards You.
3. Lord, keep us faithful in the matter of handling our money. May we be without the love of money. We don't want to hold on to our money for we trust that You will care for all our needs.
4. Lord, have mercy on us that our consecration be to the church and thorough without holding on to our occupation. The more we gain You, the more we have all things.
5. Free us from the idea of "money-making". Gain us and deliver us from the power of mammon.
6. Lord, we recognize that we are not the source. We take You as our pattern who looked up to heaven, went up to the mountain and to be with the Father in prayer.

North America/Europe/Other Burdens

1. The Distribution of Bibles in Europe—Please pray for the spreading of the translated, interpreted, and understood divine truths in Europe for the Lord's recovery and restoration.
2. Please pray for the Baltic-Nordic Blending Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania on January 26 to 28.

Church in Regina

1. Pray for a genuine revival and the Church in Regina's direction for 2024. Revive us, Lord, to rise up, take action, shepherd one another according to God in love. May this year be a new beginning with much shepherding, much care and genuine concern to one another.
2. Churching/Blending with the Church in Lloydminster on January 21. Sanctify this time to be a mutual shepherding and strengthening for all the saints.
3. Pray for positive and immediate approval of all the immigration papers of the newcomers and their settling down, that their personal lives will be blessed and that their church life will be enriched:
 - > Sorronda Family (Dana and Yeska)
 - > Alforte Family (Radam and Rosalina)
 - > Orolfo Family (Wilson and Jenny and their three children)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

- Lord's Table & Prophesying—Lord's Day 10:00-12:00PM
- Prayer Meeting—Tuesdays 7:00-8:00PM
- Chinese-Speaking Bible Reading—MW 8:30-9:00PM
- College Meetings—Fridays 7:30-8:30PM
- YP Meetings—Fridays 7:00-8:00 PM
- Children's Meeting—Saturdays 10:00-11:00AM
- Small Group Meetings—Fridays/Saturdays 7:00-9:00PM

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