

THE CHOICE between seeking God or seeking money is simple in concept, but not so simple in daily life. Yet there is a positive benefit if we choose wisely. Jesus makes it clear in Matthew 6:24-34:

"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

"That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

"And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

"So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

"So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will

bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

The reason Christians should choose God over money is because God has promised to see us through difficult times. And not only that - God promised that what we give would come back to us with profound blessings attached, as described in Malachi 3:8-12.

"Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me!

"But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?'

"You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

"Then all nations will call you blessed, for your land will be such a delight," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

This passage includes an idea that appears nowhere else in the Bible - God challenging us to put him to the test. He says if we do, he will shower us with blessing and protect us from threats to our financial security. Think about it - would you rather keep all your money, but give up God's blessing, or return a portion of your resources to him and have his abundant blessing on the rest?

Our Ministry Investment Campaign is the perfect opportunity to take God at his word. So try it, put him to the test, by making a faith-based commitment to the work he is doing through Grace Bible Church.

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