

LOVE OR MONEY?

Love or money? The question itself seems strange to most people. Does it have to be one or the other? Couldn't it be both?

Without a doubt, the popular path in this world is the materialistic one. TV programs, ads, magazines, Hollywood films, and music videos constantly tempt us to buy and consume, and to find our value in money and material things. The more we have, the more important we believe we are.



"WEALTH IS LIKE SEA-WATER;
THE MORE WE DRINK, THE THIRSTIER WE BECOME;
AND THE SAME IS TRUE OF FAME."

-Arthur Schopenhauer

The examples to follow in this world are the rich, the famous, and the powerful: those with the most access to material wealth. However, beneath the mask of glamour and glitz often lies the darker reality of broken marriages, addiction, depravity and lives that end in loneliness, depression, even suicide.



Those of us born into this world, regardless of our country or culture or official religion, live in a system that is based on materialism... on the love of money.

For love of money people steal and kill. For love of money there is corruption in politics. For love of money there is corruption in religion. For love of money the environment is destroyed: The seas and the air are polluted, all because our industries that love money have permission to destroy it as long as they give a percentage of their profits to those that govern.

And it's a world and a system that is completely unfair... where 1% of the population controls over 80% of the resources; where some have 2, 3, and sometimes even a dozen or more houses, while others do not have a place

to sleep; where some have millions, even billions of dollars, while others do not even have enough to eat.

But the sad reality is that the majority of us are complicit. We participate in this materialism of our own free will while we conceal and deny this reality as we keep accumulating money and wealth... or fantasise about doing so. Worse still, we justify it and tell ourselves that the abomination of materialism is something good.



Perhaps we volunteer our time a few hours each week to some worthy cause. Maybe on Saturdays or Sundays we devote a couple of hours to sing a couple of songs or throw some money in the offering plate. But later... Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and the days that follow... we spend the greater part of our lives working for the principle purpose of getting money and progressing materially.

But does this have to be so?

While the system of the world is based on the love of money, the spiritual path is based on love. Not romantic Hollywood love, but true love that tirelessly puts the needs of others before our own.

If we are truly following this path, then we will be going in the opposite direction to the world.

"WEALTH
CONSISTS NOT IN
HAVING GREAT
POSSESSIONS,
BUT IN HAVING
FEW WANTS."

-Epictetus



While the world keeps accumulating material wealth to an ever greater extent, one second after we die it isn't going to matter how much money we had in the bank, the size of our house, or the colour of our car—we are going to see them for the rubbish that they are.

This is why it makes sense to invest our time/life in things that are truly important, that can never be taken away from us by war, banks, rust, or other circumstances.

These things are spiritual treasures... treasures like love, peace, honesty, sincerity, humility, and faith.

The reality is that we don't have sufficient time to develop these attitudes while we keep trying to serve two masters or walk two paths.

"THE HAPPINESS OF A TRUTH-SEEKING LIFE IS ATTAINABLE FOR ANYONE WHO FOLLOWS THE PATH OF UNSELFISHNESS (GENEROSITY)."

-Siddhartha Gautama, founder of Buddhism

Throughout history, brave and sincere people have given up their wage-earning jobs to start serving others in love, full-time. And there is nothing stopping us from doing the same today.



Love or money? That's the question we should be asking ourselves in every situation. Why are we doing what we do? Is it for love... or for money, or some other form of selfish gain?

The job that you have today: Are you there because your conscience demands you to be, or do you do it to get money? It can't be a mix of both, even if you have convinced yourself otherwise. It is either one or the other. Love or money.



"A PERSON'S TRUE WEALTH IS THE GOOD HE OR SHE DOES IN THE WORLD."

—Mohammed

Ask yourself, does your job improve life in a way that doesn't negatively impact others or the environment? Or does it contribute to more of the materialism and problems in the world?

Be honest, would you continue working in that job if you didn't get paid? If there were no economic or material benefits, would you choose to be there anyway?

And if you are studying at a university, what's the primary reason you are there? Is it because you want to acquire knowledge to help you better serve others? Or is it because you will have more economic opportunities if you have a degree or qualification? Are you doing it for love or money?

A lot of people complain that they're unemployed and can't find work. But the truth is that we are surrounded by a multitude of needs and opportunities to show love to others right now. The problem only comes when we confuse work (or being productive) with making or receiving money.

Labourers for love are sadly few because most people despise the spiritual rewards on offer whenever we are motivated by selflessness and love, preferring the material rewards that the system offers instead.

When confronted with this decision to either devote our lives to working for love, or continue serving the economic system for money, the natural human reaction is to ask ourselves, "How will we survive? What will we eat? What will we wear?"

Many people allow fear of poverty and homelessness to cripple them spiritually and keep them in situations they don't wish to be in. To really stand up to this fear requires us to confront it at its very worst... the fear of death!



Think of it this way: We're going to die one day anyway. Why not accept that and live each day to the max until then? People can find excitement in fast driving, mountain climbing, taking drugs, and other things that are more dangerous than refusing to work for money. Why not take risks to conquer one of the most universal of all fears: the fear of poverty?

"THE REAL MEASURE OF YOUR WEALTH IS HOW MUCH YOU'D BE WORTH IF YOU LOST ALL YOUR MONEY."

-Anonymous

Estimate how many days you think you could last without working for money, then start doing as many helpful things as you can for as long as you can. You'll be surprised by how much you can accomplish. And you may also be surprised by how long you end up living for!









To many this will sound crazy or irresponsible, but for those of us who have stood up to the poverty bully, we have grasped a priceless freedom that cannot be taken from us, even—and especially—in these volatile times.

WHERE IS IT ALL HEADING?

The world today is on an irreversible course toward more and more centralised control, where wealth is exponentially funneled into the hands of a tiny elite controlling banking, commerce, the media, and politics.

A global cashless society continues to be aggressively pushed on the basis that cash is inconvenient and inefficient.

What we have done to the environment and to one another through materialistic, "dog-eat-dog" philosophy is taking us into more and more conflicts and over several points of no return.

The Doomsday Clock (of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists) tocked just 90 seconds to midnight, due to ominous threats from nuclear war, climate catastrophe, evolving biological threats, and the dangers of A.I. And most of us sense the dread and uncertainty in this.



Banks, churches, employer organisations, and big government, are all pushing daily for greater control of the masses through legislation and computer technology as their solution to the various threats facing the world. Every transaction, movement or phone call we make, every email we send or internet search we perform, is now able to be tracked and monitored "for our best interests" (we are told). Freedom of thought, freedom of speech and freedom of movement is being restricted at lightning speed.



We are often controlled through fear: fear of war... fear of dangerous "cults"... fear of scams... fear of murderers and terrorists... and fear of scary new illnesses (and how they are dealt with). The solution presented by those with a vested interest in upholding the status quo is always to promise safety through giving them greater control. One big super church that will squash all the heretics. One big government that will license all the "goodies" and outlaw all the "baddies". One big army and police force that will wipe out all threats and crime. And one big central banking digital system that will brand everyone and keep all the wealth safe in its computers.

But we who have produced this pamphlet won't wear it. We see that the answer lies in personal attitudes... individuals with a commitment to fight hate with love and fight fear with faith. People who want to learn more than they want to get a formal



education or university degree. People who want to be productive and help others more than they want a paid job. People who want to grow daily in self-discipline, sensitivity to the needs of others, and a willingness to put their lives on the line, to see the power of love transform the hearts and lives of those around them.

A NEW MOTIVATION

What is needed is a vision and a commitment that are both positive and complete. We believe the goal must be total love for all humanity. This means building a world where everyone's rights are protected and where everyone's needs are met. Our aggression must be directed against the lies and deceptions that are destroying the world (but not against the people who tell and believe the lies).

We are talking about much more than nice words for a political platform or a new religion. We are talking



about a community of people who refuse to let money be a motivation for their daily living... people who actively and continually seek to use all of their skills, energy, and resources to express love for others.

In time, we hope to see this spirit of love spread and affect many more people. Real love is much more than emotional thrills; it is capable of revolutionising the entire world, one selfless or kind act at a time. In fact, we've found it is more powerful than life itself.

A few of us have begun to work for love rather than for money. We have given up everything we own and we are prepared to lay down our lives for love.

We have already found that such commitment pays dividends in terms of inner fulfillment, increased awareness, and a zest for life. We believe we've hit on the answer to the world's environmental, social, economic, and spiritual problems.

But our success is not dependent on everyone choosing to do this, though of course that would be the ideal. Even if the world comes crashing down, or we get taken out as a result of our commitment, we experience the fruit of living this way right now... while ensuring that our own souls and consciences remain intact.



THE SOURCE

This is always the hardest part to get across: The things in this booklet really came from the teachings of Jesus.

Please don't confuse us with all that passes for Christianity today. Jesus said some amazing, far-from-ordinary things that many people have never even heard. The principles outlined in this booklet are what he called the "good news of the kingdom of God".

It's important to bring God into it for a few reasons. For one thing, if we're not careful, we can end up letting go of money and then fight over the things it can buy. Just as goods are more important than money, so God is more important than the goods. He's the source of all true wealth.

The obvious argument, "If we don't look after ourselves, who will?" has an answer when you bring God into it. If you're working for love, you're working for God. It becomes his responsibility to look after your material needs. And we've found that he does.



Also, God comes into it when you try to decide the best way to go about loving others. God *is* love, expressed most clearly in the life and death of Jesus. Furthermore, only God knows the future, and he explains a lot about the overall plan in scriptural and prophetic texts.

One of the most revolutionary things Jesus was recorded as saying has to do with the main issue being discussed in this booklet—the spiritual war that exists between serving love as opposed to serving money and materialism.



"YOU CANNOT SERVE TWO MASTERS, FOR YOU WILL LOVE ONE AND HATE THE OTHER, OR YOU WILL BE FAITHFUL TO ONE AND DESPISE THE OTHER. YOU CANNOT SERVE BOTH GOD AND MONEY."

-Jesus of Nazareth

But he quickly went on to explain that if we work for love, by following our conscience and doing what we know is right, our material needs will be looked after. We call this "living by faith", although you could equally call it "living by love". We have not only found that it works, it has set us free from the system of economic slavery controlling the world as well.



Jesus also revealed that there are only two paths that exist. One path leads to life... a narrow path that rare, far-from-ordinary souls choose to walk... while the other path is the popular way... the broad and wide path that leads to destruction.

Changing paths and direction can feel daunting, especially the more responsibilities and wealth we accumulate, and the older and more set in our ways we become. However, it is still possible, especially with a bit of help from others... and a lot of help from the One who created us to walk the path of love.

Each time we choose to base our actions on materialism and self-interest we move further and further away from what is loving, fulfilling and sustainable. Each time we genuinely try to help others with no thought of return, we send a powerful ripple into the world and into eternity. We build a wealth that can never be taken away because what we do for love lives on inside us, and in the hearts and minds of those who are impacted by it.

We hope this message inspires you to positively impact someone's life today, regardless of whether we hear back from you. However, if you're tired of following the crowd on the popular (or "ordinary") path, knowing deep down that it's leading you (and the world) in a direction you'd rather not go, don't hesitate to reach out to us at the email address below. We're here to offer our time and advice to anyone who shares our commitment to living by love rather than money.

Email: real.reversal@gmail.com Website: bit.ly/articles-to-read YouTube: bit.lv/ourYTvideos

Post: Box A678 Sydney South 1235 NSW Australia

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