

# From the PASTOR'S DESK



## Free Slaves of God

No servant can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and money. This is one of the better-known quotes of the Bible. God and money do not go together. Jesus is not saying If you like money, if you have money, if you use money, God will be angry and hate you. Perhaps, instead of emphasizing how wicked it is to be a slave to Mammon, we should begin with the joys of being a slave to God. If no servant can have two masters, it is equally true that no servant can have no master. In inviting us to free ourselves from slavery to Mammon, Christ urges us to enslave ourselves to God.

God and Mammon are not, in fact, opposites. We do not believe that the material goods of the world are wicked. Mammon is not an anti-God. God created material goods, and they are good. God created everything and saw that it was very good. God so loved this created world that He took flesh, entering into our world of flesh and blood and bread and oil and wine and water and....

God invites us to participate in His work of creation, not as Adam did with toil and tears, but with joy and laughter and singing. The created world is not overthrown, evaporating into nothingness, but transformed and redeemed.

And money is an important part of this. Its purpose is the allocation of goods, not of bads. Our ability to devise an economic system, to reason out the right way to allocate resources, is a sign of how God confides in us, allows us to participate in His Providence.

It is not a case of God is good, and money is bad; in fact, not even of money is good, but God is better. Rather, money is good, and God is the source of that goodness, the meaning and perfection of all goodness. God is not competing with Mammon. Yet, money is tainted. Not in itself, but because of what we human beings have made of our good, created world. We have made a world in which people can so easily become enslaved to greed. Those who have become enslaved to money have failed to put it to the good work for which it is intended. Mammon is unrighteous because we have made it so.

Fr. Hernan Cely

Pastor

