

Rejecting **Mammon**

How to See Results
From Your Giving

Chris **Cree**

REJECTING MAMMON: How to See Results From Your Giving

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To my wife Lisa.

Thank you for partnering with me on this great adventure.
You know just how to add the right touch of joy and fun to every day.

And to everyone who is frustrated, waiting to see the harvest from all your faithful giving. Please take hope in the knowledge that God does have answers for you. Your harvest is fast approaching and it will fuel a cycle of seedtime and harvest which will propel you into an even deeper relationship with Jesus.

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Introduction

“Ask, and it will be given you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened for you.”

— Matthew 7:7 (WEB)

Why This Book?

There’s something about the subject of money that gets people’s emotions all stirred up. People react passionately, and often negatively, when Christian ministers start talking about money.

For example, a sure way to kick over an anthill in Christian circles on Facebook is to post something about tithing. People tend to get irrational and lash out when their views about money are challenged.

I totally get it. I’ve seen manipulative ministers apply emotional and spiritual pressure to get people to put more money in the plate when they “take up” offerings. Unfortunately it happens far more than it should.

For my part, I dislike talking about money more than most people. I

don't have a good sense of what things are worth. And I really don't like rejection. That combination made for epic failures the few times I tried my hand at sales jobs.

All in all, I'd rather write a book about something else.

However, I keep running into people with questions about giving. It seems like at least once a week I hear someone ask a question about giving and money. Or I see a question on social media and my heart goes out to the person.

- *Should we give 10% today, or what's in our heart to give?*
- *Is the tithe relevant for believers today?*
- *How come I have been giving faithfully for years, but never seem to harvest much?*
- *Why is there so much manipulation and fear surrounding money?*
- *Didn't Jesus say we shouldn't talk about our giving and not even let our right hand know what our left hand is doing?*
- *What's the deal with the thirty, sixty, hundredfold harvest and why don't we see that?*
- *Since the tithe is part of the Law, then shouldn't we disregard it today?*
- *How come I don't see any results from my giving?*

I had all these questions and many more myself. So I know that even though it makes people crazy sometimes to talk about money, this is the right book for me to publish right now.

God truly does have answers to all our questions, even the tough ones about money. The Kingdom of God provides ways for us to prosper in every area of our lives, including financially. Jesus said that money is the least thing when it comes to exercising our faith. He said that if we weren't faithful with money, then who will trust us with true riches?

I believe it is time for the Church of Jesus Christ to rise up and step into the prosperity He already made available for us. When we finally

get a revelation of this and begin to receive the fullness of His financial prosperity the way God intends, it will change everything, both for us personally, and for the world around us.

Once we understand how to receive from God in the area of our finances, it unlocks the door to receive His blessings in every other area of our lives too because money is the least thing in the Kingdom. And it will empower you to become a greater influence for the Kingdom of God in your world as you demonstrate your faithfulness in giving and receiving and come to understand God's intended purpose behind the prosperity He gives you.

Where We've Been

This book is the result of years of both study and practical experience.

For the first fifteen or so years of our marriage my wife Lisa and I tended to have what I generally refer to as "intense fellowships." No matter how much I try to be funny or make it sound more spiritual, the reality for those years is that we argued quite a bit.

Somehow money seemed to be at the core of at least 99% of those arguments. If you're married, perhaps you can relate to arguing about money. Or if you're single, perhaps you worry about money issues. For us, far too often there was too much month at the end of our money. Lisa did the books. She couldn't see how to make it work when there wasn't enough to pay the bills. I didn't really have any answers for her. And since I didn't like talking about money anyway, I just avoided the subject as long as possible.

The pressure would build and at some point the lid would blow off. When it did, I got angry and loud. Then she cried. Or sometimes she cried and then I got angry and loud. Either way I felt incompetent, like I was a horrible provider. But because I was better with words I would get her all twisted around. Then she would feel defeated.

We both felt powerless and hopeless to see things change.

It got to the point where we called it the crazy cycle because even when we were fully aware of what was happening, that we were

“going there” one more time, we still went there anyway. Over, and over, and over again.

One day we had a particularly bad “intense fellowship” and Lisa got so angry that she kicked a chair over. It shocked my system.

Standing there, in that moment, I felt like a total failure as a husband, because I was sure it was my fault. I was the one to blame for our financial challenges and the strain it caused in our relationship.

And I felt like a total failure as a Christian too. Following Jesus is supposed to make our lives different. But I couldn’t even figure out how to stop arguing about money with my own wife.

Fortunately our story doesn’t end there. We knew there had to be answers.

There were many reasons why Lisa and I decided to attend Bible college. One of the biggest is that we both clearly saw how desperately we needed to renew our minds and break the crazy cycle.

In reality we both had very different, but very dysfunctional thinking and attitudes towards money. Bible college helped us dramatically as we learned what all Jesus accomplished for us on the cross.

But we still had a problem. Even though we got a revelation that we now *are* prosperous in Christ, we still didn’t know *how* to prosper. There was a disconnect because the prosperity that we knew was ours wasn’t part of our practical experience. We knew the truth of prosperity, but we didn’t yet see it playing out in our lives.

We were always really good at giving. But we didn’t know how to receive. We had been faithfully sowing financial seed for years and years. But we didn’t know how to harvest. We were just giving, giving, giving in ignorance, not realizing that God has explained specific ways for us to give in His Kingdom. God’s ways are higher than our ways.

This disconnect became glaringly obvious after God called us to head overseas as missionaries. We needed to raise financial support to get where God was calling us so we put all the pieces in place.

We formed a nonprofit and got the 501(c)3 approval. I built a website

and put up a secure giving form. We started an email newsletter. And we prayed.

But the money we needed just trickled in.

At the slow rate we were receiving donations it was going to take us decades to raise what we needed to cover our living expenses. The only method of fund raising we were exposed to required us to itinerate at a bunch of churches and ask people to support us.

Unfortunately we didn't really have any church contacts where we could go speak. Even more, the thought of traveling around to churches begging for money didn't appeal to us at all. We very much didn't want to do that. But we didn't know any other way.

It was during this time that God told me, "*Chris, I want you to stop working for your money and start believing for it.*"

I objected. Have you ever done that? Have God tell you something, then try to explain to Him why what He said isn't right? I took God right back to His own word in 2 Thessalonians 3:10 where Paul wrote that if anyone doesn't work, then neither should he eat.

I figure if I'm going to argue with God, then I better use His own words to argue my side.

God pointed out that He didn't say I should stop working. He said I was to stop working *for my money*. He wanted me to disconnect the results from my own effort.

That was a mind bender for me. It took some time to get my head around it. The skills I had always enabled me to earn pretty good money. We didn't realize it at the time, but God was going to show Lisa and me how His Kingdom works in the area of our finances. That meant He needed me to disconnect from my old way of getting provision through my hard work.

We dug into scripture. We sought out more teaching and found mentors who helped us. We tested what we learned to see what bore fruit and what didn't. We started putting what we learned into practice, and we saw results. People started donating to our ministry without us begging them.

It was much less than a year from when we began aligning our giving with the ways of the Kingdom of God that the funds we needed were in place. Lisa and I moved to Scotland, where God called us to open a new campus of an international Bible college.

The money we needed to carry out God's assignment came in supernaturally, much faster than the decades it would have taken in the natural. This book will show you what that looks like.

I first pulled this material together as a course which I teach to our Bible college students. They are seeing results just like Lisa and I do. God is no respecter of persons. His Kingdom principles work for anyone who will line up with them. His promises are available for everyone who will believe them and receive them by faith.

God will do the same thing for you too. His promises are there, waiting for you to believe them and receive them by faith. There's lots of work to do before Jesus returns. It's going to take a great deal of money to get it all done.

It is God's desire that you become a financial resource for His Kingdom. But you cannot give away what you don't yet have. Therefore we must leave the world's ways of prospering financially behind and start walking in God's ways instead.

It's my prayer that this book will reveal those Kingdom ways in the area of your finances and help you step into the prosperity God has waiting for you. That will enable you to bless even more people than you do already.

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. — 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NKJV)

Thank you for reading!

If this introductory chapter was a blessing for you, we encourage you to get the full book via our RejectingMammon.com website.

Chris Cree serves as a missionary in Scotland with his wife Lisa where they direct a campus of an international Bible college. He is president and co-founder of NewCREEations Ministries focusing on sharing God's goodness and character with a hurting world. Previously he worked for 10 years developing WordPress websites and helping audiences reach larger audiences online. Earlier in his career Chris worked in maritime cargo operations and flew from aircraft carriers with the US Navy.

Endorsement

This is the kind of book I like to read!

I like its style and the way it communicates truth through the written word.

I believe it will practically help many people to understand and walk in God's ways concerning Kingdom finances.

Even though Chris covers some controversial subjects, I believe this book is balanced and has the potential to straighten out people's hearts with understanding. It will bring them into a place of trusting and believing God with their finances.

This book will show them how to live the truth they believe, as a way of life in Christ.

Cecil H Paxton – Cecil and Lisa Paxton Ministries Inc

Visit RejectingMammon.com to get the book!