

Emo, Ergo Sum (I buy, therefore I am)

Money, work and everything else related to it take up most of our waking time – when we try “to make a living” by working. And in our free-time? We buy and sell as if our life depends on it. Supermarkets have become the cathedrals of a mammon-driven religion. As if the bible teaches: I buy, therefore I am. But that’s not what it says. It says: God wants me, therefore I am.

“Money makes the world go round”, says a proverb. But who makes the money go round? Who rules what rules most people? Over which issue do most marriages, companies, partnerships or friendships break up? For what do we sacrifice our health? What is it politicians argue about 90% of the time? What really drives churches – once God seems to be on a vacation? And what do we take a break from in our vacations? What do you worry about most – *right now*? Exactly. Money, and everything related to it. We see the world of finances and work like an iceberg. 90% of it is under water. And if at all we talk about the subject, we talk 90% of our time about the 10 visible percent of our world of work and finances. But there is much more to it. Behind the visible reality is an invisible reality, that the media, which is full of money and work-related news, does not cover.

A look below the surface

Where do we find a drink of cold water in a dry world of planning, budgeting, controlling, where the most important question seems to be: Google or Ebay? Countless financial advisors and portfolio managers, experts and specialists want to sell us their investment and saving strategies and – right! - even newsletters. But most of their advice falls short big time, because it only relates to the “above-the-surface reality”. And here is why it pays to take a deeper look:

1. Action Level. This is the visible part, our world between 9-5. Full of 1000 ways to save, invest, budget, plan, accumulate or refinance debt, gain bargains, selling, buying, working, pension. Our working mode here is what we think is common sense. **2. Values-Level.** Why we do what we do. Here we store our life-patterns, principles, values and goals. **3. Inspiration-Level.** Who or what inspires our life? By what or whom are we powered? Driven? What has transpired into our values? What’s our image of the world, God, man?

The Bible knows only 2 very different sources of inspiration in this area: good (God) and bad (Satan, more specific: Mammon.) Mammon, biblically a demon, old-assyric for Money or riches, theologically an underling of Satan, traditionally the God of Money. Loves to be hidden: “I don’t exist”, is its message, while it squeezes the life out of you. Most people feel the symptoms, but don’t understand the



cause: they realize that something is fishy with the life (?) of a workoholic or working poor. Many feel tied to a plough (desk, office, workshop) and commanded to produce, or else. Saved to a job we usually never wanted, to earn money to buy things we don’t need to impress people we don’t like we constantly reach for more money – or more talk about the money we don’t have. A world torn between worries and greed, between smooth, cool materialism and the resigned utopias of dropouts. Did God really design a life consisting of working 90.000 hours to pay down mortgages and loans, and then die? Or is such a life the devastating result of an infection of something far worse than a virus, getting us into a Matrix, a “world pulled over our eyes?” And right here we have to choose, by whom we are driven and powered – especially in the area of money and work. Don’t let others (worst: ads; 2nd worst: churches) decide for you, and stay away from advice that just makes your hamsters wheel go faster. Rather, go deeper. The deeper you dive here, the more radical your life will change and you can become disinfected - and stay free. That’s why Mammon-Fax exists: to help you get out of the hamster wheel, get disinfected, by inspiring you with liberating insights to help you to break free. Take a regular dive, see your life from an underwater perspective, understand your very own personal iceberg much better, be able to choose your power source and steer your life where God wants it to go. For this we have to both unlearn, and also dethrone a being that many people can’t grasp, but has a far more powerful influence than they care to know.

The Wizard of Oz

Remember “The Wizard of Oz”, with Judy Garland, USA 1939? A great storm carries away Dorothee, her dog Toto and the whole house, from Kansas to the land behind the rainbow. There rules the great and terrible Wizard of Oz, and has bewitched the land from his castle for a long time. As Dorothee visits the castle, little Toto steals himself away and, curious and naughty as little dogs are, pulls away a curtain. And – bingo! – behind it appears a little old man. Pulling strings, pressing buttons and throwing handgears he causes it to thunder and boom outside. But it was all a show. Thanks to Toto, the wizard is demasked, loses his scare and Dorothee can go home again. You also should go home. We believe you can make it. And if the Mammon Fax can play the role of little Toto and helps to dethrone a huge false wizard in our life, Mammon, and allow God to take over, we have reached our goal.



Once a month a breath of fresh air and liberating insights about the top issues work and money – by Dr. Thomas Giudici (economist and management consultant) and Wolfgang Simson (theologian and strategy consultant) ©

Subscription is € 35 / \$ 45 or CHF 52 p.a. Sign up on the web @ www.mammon-fax.net or send a mail to order@mammon-fax.net or a Fax to +41 (86079) 321 56 56.