Is Your Credit Card Interest More Than You Give?

The typical American family pays over $1,200 dollars a year in interest on their credit cards. That is not on principle it is simply the amount they pay on interest. Have you ever sat at a Starbucks and watched how few pay for their drink with cash? The same is true for when you go to the movies or out to eat. Using our plastic has become a way of life. Don't have money to pay for that meal? Just charge it! We have been raised almost from infancy with that mindset. As a result we pay thousands of dollars a year simply on interest!

Can you imagine that amount multiplied millions of times over? It is staggering to think what we pay to have something right now instead of saving to wait until we can afford it. What has resulted is that we have become a debtor nation struggling to make ends meet but still living high by pulling out our credit cards to purchase something else we want. We seldom ever save for anything and as a result pay many times more than the price of our purchase when you add in the interest.

Did you know the Bible teaches us to set aside money so that we can give? Listen to Paul's instructions in I Corinthians 16:1 -2 where he writes, "Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made." Paul did not want to have to take up the collection when he came, he wanted it ready to be sent to those in need.

I wonder, is the amount you pay in interest more than the amount you give to God's work? What does our spending habits say about what is really important in our lives? Show me someone's calendar and their bank account and I will show you what they really value. What do you value?