

...but everybody accepts plastic!

Why our web site does not accept debit/credit cards

When this writer was a boy, if someone ordered a piece of merchandise from an out-of-town dealer, it was usually by mail. I can remember order forms that had a provision for folding the corners of the form over the coins that were to be mailed in payment, and securely taped so that they would not rattle around in the envelope. The form also specified that the sender was to allow anything from three to six weeks for delivery. It seemed a long wait, but the items ordered usually arrived on or a little ahead of schedule. How things have changed in forty-five years! Sure, thanks to high-speed communication, electronic bank transactions, computerized security, and multiple interconnected shipping locations, next-day delivery has become common. And the modern desire for instant gratification is efficiently satisfied. In this age of maximum convenience, electronic security, and instant service, we just type in our card number, not certain that we will ever actually have the funds to pay, and our dreams come true immediately. Never before have so many been so satisfied so quickly. At least in theory. There are many advantages to this modern system, no doubt. But what has been the cost?

There have also been drawbacks. Behind the speedy simplicity of e-commerce lies an enormously complex system of "security" measures aimed more at the security and convenience of the wealthy than at that of those of modest means. This complexity is necessitated by the fact that, during the same period of time, the Laws of God have increasingly been banished from public life. Children are taught in public schools that God is a myth, and that His Ten Commandments are barbaric relics of an unenlightened and repressive past, in which the "rights of mankind" were not recognized. They are thus trained to think in purely materialistic terms, cultivating the attitude that this life is the only one, and that what matters in life is not whether what you do is good or evil, but rather being good at what you do, whether it is healing or killing, for the sake of gaining money and power. This has inevitably led to the rise of a generation that is predominantly both without a moral compass, and fearful for its material security. It is a generation that, with few notable exceptions, makes its decisions on the basis of pragmatism rather than principle. When voting, they will vote not for whoever is best for all, but rather for whoever promises to take care of their immediate wants. Ironically, the politicians they elect were raised with the same attitude, and are thus usually "in it for themselves", and tell whatever lies they perceive will get themselves elected. When these politicians are caught voting themselves and their friends handouts from the public treasury, the public is unaccountably shocked, not recognizing that they, who elected them, did so out of the same motivation. And for every handout program these politicians create to buy votes, a new group of opportunists arises to find ways of taking advantage of it, at the expense of their neighbors. Unaccountably astonished at the rise of

"cheating", they pass increasingly tyrannical laws allegedly to control the "cheaters", but which also increase the power and influence of the politicians. Not wanting to lose popularity by raising taxes as much as would be required to pay for their scams, they resort to the hidden tax called inflation. Thanks to this inflation (which is caused by dishonest borrowing, chiefly by government entities, of money that does not exist, at interest), coins no longer have enough value to pay the delivery charges, let alone the cost of the merchandise. And thanks to the de-Christianization/ secularization of public life, in which the laws of God are considered irrelevant, most dealers now instruct customers not to send cash as payment, as they cannot trust their employees, and there are few customers who dare to send cash of any kind by mail, (though it is still done, and with success when done discreetly). People sometimes write bad checks, effectively stealing merchandise and increasing costs for everyone else.

To protect themselves from the now-common dishonesty, the big bankers, merchants, and insurance companies have devised a system of credit cards, which encourage customers to spend money they don't have and pay interest for the privilege, and debit cards, which give merchants direct access to the bank accounts of their customers (as do automatic payment plans). You no longer have to worry about some robber or pickpocket stealing the cash from your pocket, so that's good for you, too, right? Wrong! Now, with all the computerized security in place, a smart robber can systematically steal money from your account from anywhere in the world, without having to go through the inconvenience of breaking physically into your bank. Now, while you sleep in your own bed, your life-savings can be wiped out, and your credit record ruined, without your ever having to face the man who is robbing you. How safe and convenient!

"Plastic", especially since the rise of the Internet, is rapidly replacing cash in the commerce of our society. The much-heralded "cashless society" looms on the horizon. Is this desirable? When identity theft becomes pandemic, will the people demand a cardless society made possible by implanting a unique microchip in every person at birth? There are already microchip companies poised to begin doing this very thing, the plan being to give every man, woman and child on earth an implant in their right hands or foreheads, and making it so that there is no other way to buy or sell than by scanning these implants. How secure will that be? Will robbers who think nothing of killing a boy for his jeans shy away from cutting off an arm or head to order a laptop from the Internet? More menacing than this, however, is the question of who will be in charge of administering this enormous and sensitive database? The most powerful man on earth, that's who. Whoever it is will have life-and-death power over every person on earth. Will he be trustworthy? If you think so, I know someone who would love to sell you some ocean-front property in Wyoming.

We do not want to be party to the advancement of this scenario. Therefore, we do not use, nor accept, electronic payment options. The more people who refuse to buy into that deadly scheme, the harder it will be for the ruling elite to forcibly impose it on all. We do not make any judgement against those who feel they have to go along, but we, in conscience, cannot participate voluntarily. ***We can, however, offer you speed, convenience, and security of a slower and perhaps less dangerous kind. If you phone***

or fax us your order, and mail your cash, money order, or check the same day, in most cases we will have your order ready to ship within a day of receiving your payment.

In the meantime, a reading from Holy Scripture may be in order. In Apocalypse (Revelation) 13 we read:

*11 And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns, like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon. 12 And he executed all the power of the former beast in his sight; and he caused the earth, and them that dwell therein, to adore the first beast, whose wound to death was healed. 13 And he did great signs, so that he made also fire to come down from heaven unto the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he seduced them that dwell on the earth, for the signs, which were given him to do in the sight of the beast, saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make the image of the beast, which had the wound by the sword, and lived. 15 And it was given him to give life to the image of the beast, and that the image of the beast should speak; and should cause, that whosoever will not adore the image of the beast, should be slain. 16 **And he shall make all, both little and great, rich and poor, freemen and bondmen, to have a character in their right hand, or on their foreheads.** 17 **And that no man might buy or sell, but he that hath the character, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.** 18 Here is wisdom. He that hath understanding, let him count the number of the beast. For it is the number of a man: and the number of him is six hundred sixty-six.*

I have been told that the Hebrew character that represents the number six (6) is transliterated as "w". Does "www" (world wide web) equal "666"? I have also been told

ALPHABET TABLE									
Showing the letters of five non-Roman alphabets and the transliterations used in the etymologies									
	HEBREW ^{1,2}	ARABIC ^{3,4}	GREEK ⁷	RUSSIAN ⁸	SANSKRIT ¹¹				
1	א aleph ' a	ا ل alif ' a	Α α alpha a	А а a	अ a	ज ञ			
2	ב beth b, bh	ب ب ba b	Β β beta b	Б б b	आ a	ट त			
3	ג gimel g, gh	ג ג ta t	Γ γ gamma g, n	В в v	इ i	ठ थ			
4	ד daleth d, dh	ד ד thā th	Δ δ delta d	Г г g	ई i	ड ढ			
5	ה he h	ה ה jim j	Ε ε epsilon e	Д д d	ऋ ऌ	उ ँ			
6	ו waw w	ו ו khā kh	Ζ ζ zeta z	Ж ж zh	अ ऌ	ए ऌ			
	ז zayin z	ז ז dāl d	Η η eta ē	И и й i, y	ऋ ऌ	त त			
	ח heth ḥ	ח ח dhāl dh	Θ θ theta th	К к k	ऋ ऌ	थ थ			
	ט teth ṭ	ט ט rā r	Ι ι iota i	Л л l	ऋ ऌ	द द			
	י yod y	י י zāy z	Κ κ kappa k	М м m	ऋ ऌ	ध ध			
	כ kaph k, kh	כ כ sin s	Λ λ lambda l	О о o	ए ए	न न			
	ל lamed l	ל ל shīn sh	Μ μ mu m	П п p	ऐ ऐ	प प			
		ס ס šād š	Ν ν nu n	Р р r	ओ ओ				

that Hebrew characters do not work decimally, that those three characters together do not add up to 666. Thus far, no one has told me how else "666" would be written. Can anyone tell me authoritatively, or whether Hebrew numbers are ever used decimally? Is the Internet the budding marketplace of the Beast of the Apocalypse? The coincidences

are striking.

Let us remain free subjects of the Divine Lamb of God, Our Lord Jesus Christ. In Him let us put our trust, and not in any “false Christs” or “false prophets” that Our Lord warned us would come. In the meantime, please have patience with those of us who have our doubts as to the “convenience” of the proposed “cashless society”. The more people resist it, the harder it will be to impose it.

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