

Cashless \$ociety

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In the Bible, the book of Revelation, it tells of a time when cash cannot be used. John the Revelator described it as, “the mark of the beast.”

Some speculators think the “beast” might be a huge computer capable of tracking every person in the world.

Over the centuries, people have debated what that will look like and how it will come into existence. How could a super world power number everyone on the planet?

Some have said it is a chip embedded in the body. Others claim it might be a tattoo, or a barcode on a phone, or another type of mark.

I personally think it will first come in the form of a credit card, whether it is a tattoo, chip, barcode or bank account. I think it might be an 18-digit credit card, instead of the current 16-digit card. The 18-digit card would and could number the entire world population. I also see the set of numbers in sections of 3 sets of 6 numbers, instead of the current 4 sets of 4 numbers, which would appear as the 666 that John saw. You need to remember, that John did not understand computers or credit cards.

It is all speculation, but what I do know, we are moving toward a cash-less society.

Currently, you need a credit card to fly and rent a car. Some restaurants and all vending machines at the El Dorado Correctional Facilities require card use.

Many other governmental offices are moving in that direction.

My real concern at correctional facilities, is for family members who visit offenders and do not have a credit or debit card due to difficult circumstances.

The news service *Guardian*, writes, “All over the western world banks are shutting down cash machines and branches. They are trying to push you into using their digital payments and digital banking infrastructure. Just like Google wants everyone to access and navigate the broader internet via its privately controlled search portal, so financial institutions want everyone to access and navigate the broader economy through their systems.”

Banks of course tell us a different story about why they do this. According to the banks, “it is the customers who are turning to digital,” and they are just responding to changing customer preferences.

Recently while visiting Dillions, I noticed they now have “scan and go.” As you come in the entrance there are scanners for you to pick up — and as you shop, you scan your items. Then, it is almost immediate check out as you use your debit or credit card.

Currently, most cell phones have an application called “wallet.” It is a way to purchase or pay bills at a touch of a button. “The idea of a cashless society could be one of the greatest threats to freedom in human history,” said Signature Bank chairman, Scott Shay.

We are told that a cashless society will reduce crime and make bill paying easier. The flip-side of that coin, so to speak, is that someone, somewhere, has all of your credit information.

Reserve Bank Deputy Governor, Geoff Bascand, notes that even the Reserve Bank is thinking about issuing a digital currency. He went on to say, “Issuing a central bank digital currency would ensure public access to legal tender money regardless of the presence of cash.”

A point of real danger is the person who cannot get a credit or debit card, or have maxed-out their card. What do they do? That’s simple, steal a card.

The one point of reprieve we now have is, “cash and barter” are still part of society. To me, this is reassuring — that at least at this point — we are not in the Mark of the Beast. We are not controlled by big business — and government is still “by the people and for the people.”