

IN DEBT UP 'THE WAZOO?

Consumer credit debt accounts for 40% of the national debt. National consumer credit debt has reached an all-time high of over \$1 trillion dollars, and credit card debt accounts for approximately 400 billion dollars of that figure (see Ameridebt, Debt-Manage.com). Lot of us live by **Martin's Money Maxim**: "It takes a lot of borrowing to live within your income"—and we're right on schedule with our seven-year plan:

NEW YEAR'S FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

(compiled from various internet humor sources)

- 2000: I will not spend my money frivolously.**
- 2001: I will pay off my bank loan promptly.**
- 2002: I will pay off my bank loans promptly.**
- 2003: I will begin making a strong effort to be out of debt by 2008.**
- 2004: I will be totally out of debt by 2009.**
- 2005: I will try to pay off the debt interest by 2010.**
- 2006: I will try to be out of the country by 2007.**

Then again, *you* might be debt free, and can't understand how people can be so stupid with their money and their plastic. Well, my friend, you need four Murphy's rules for the road:

Lani's Principle of Economics: "\$100 placed at 7% interest compounded quarterly for 200 years will increase to more than \$100,000,000 by which time it will be worth nothing."

Schnatterly's Summing Up of the Corollaries: "If anything can't go wrong, it will."

Tudisco's Asymmetry Principle: "Things go wrong all at once, but things go right gradually."

Gumperson's Proof: "The most undesirable things are the most certain—death and taxes."

MONEY AIN'T EVERYTHING

Ever notice that people who say that are usually broke!? The *lack* of money and even more so the *love* of money can get us into a lot of trouble. Regardless if we're in hock, in arrears, drowning in red praying for a bolt from the blue, or we're in the pink, loaded with green, and sailing in the black, three nagging problems face us all:

- There is a debt none of us can ever pay off.
- We're fools if our estate planning is *not* out of this world.
- We will outlive our money. Ultimately as immortals, we will outlive all monetary systems, nations, cultures, civilization—nature itself. What is mortal and temporal will be swallowed up by what is immortal and eternal. When all else breaks down, dies, and disappears, human souls will prevail. We will be wide awake and ready to face *you-know-who*.

BAD NEWS/GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS FOR DEADBEATS

- The debt none of us can ever pay is the debt of our sin. The bad news is we're all deadbeats.
- The debt none of us can ever pay was paid in full by Jesus the Messiah when he took upon himself the crushing weight of our sin and shame. *He was pierced for our sins; he was crushed for our iniquities* (Isaiah 53:5a). Jesus voluntarily laid down his life (John 10:17-18). He suffered for us, and took upon himself the punishment we deserve.
- *God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned* (good news), *but whoever does not believe stands condemned already* (bad news), *because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only son* (John 3:17-18).

DISCLAIMER

Trust in Jesus the Messiah and take care of the debt only He can pay. Other than death and taxes, there are few guarantees in life on this side of eternity. But don't worry yourself to death over this life. The best is yet to come!