

Back to School Spending

School is in session! Or say, **School is about to start!** That gets a mixed reaction. Parents are cheering and students want to boo. Like it or not while summer on the calendar is still with us for about another month, for those in school or have kids in school, summer is essentially over. If your family is like most families you have spent the last weeks getting ready for this change in lifestyle as things get back to normal or perhaps back to abnormality.

\$670 dollars per family is the average back to school spending of an American family this year. In total U.S. families will spend a total of \$26.5 billion for K-12 children. When you add college-aged kids to the mix that final number soars to nearly \$75 billion. That is just back to school spending. The real spending starts AFTER school gets started!

If your family is like mine you don't even think twice about spending to get ready for school. It is simply something you do. While spending that money might hurt the budget and we might cringe at the final amount we gladly do it. Why? We love our kids and we want the best for them and so we find the money needed.

So is spending money on our kids to get them ready for school an expense or an investment? We see the money we spend on their education as an investment. When you love someone you want to invest in their life. You don't begrudge spending money on things like education.

When it comes time to give we should have the same attitude. Every week we take up an offering. We do this so that we can fully fund all the things we believe God has called us to do. We never charge parents to bring their kids to our nursery and pre-school. Your students attend our events for free. We have these programs not to provide a babysitting service for you while you sit here. We have these programs to teach spiritual principles that will mold and shape your children for the rest of their lives.

So every time you give here you are making a statement. You are stating first your love for Christ and being obedient to His commands to give. At the same time you are making a statement that you want to help us invest in the future generations for Christ.

As our ushers come forward to collect the offering let's see our gifts today not as an expense but as an investment.