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### **Moving Quickly**

With trips to Baltimore, Florida and Dallas in the rear view mirror, I only have local visits to New York and Boston into January. I keep thinking that will make my family happy, but sometimes teen aged kids would rather not have their father around. I post lots of pictures with the little guy who is now 11 on social media and people always ask about the others. I reply that he is the only one who really wants to hang out with me besides the dog and cat!

Tomorrow, Thursday, I head to New York for media and meetings. From Noon to 1pm, I am set to co-host Yahoo Finance's On The Move before heading to Fox Business to be with my friend, Charles Payne, from 2pm to 2:30pm. As always, you never know what will come out of my mouth once the shows get going.

Here are some recent media clips from a few spirited segments.

The other day I was on TD Ameritrade Network offering my less than flattering views on McDonald's and Starbucks.

#### https://tdameritradenetwork.com/video/rB4AoW5xFSWBboAEkRwCJw

Right before that, I joined the good folks on Yahoo Finance's The First Trade where I never pull any punches.

# https://finance.yahoo.com/video/major-indexes-red-despite-strong-145549962.html

On Fed day a few weeks, I went from media outlet to media outlet but I only have the segment below right now where I gave a slew of stocks picks and updated a few previous picks.

#### https://tdameritradenetwork.com/video/rB4AoW4bG9mBbh3H3UIA4w

The fall has been crazy hectic, pretty much as I expected with Katie's insane softball schedule and D's baseball slate where I coach. After winning the championship in the spring while coaching from my wheelchair and crutches, the fall team set a league record with the most wins ever in fall ball. We did get lucky as I drafted a new kid who turned out to be one of the best kids in the league.

The pictures below definitely reveal the major theme of fall for us at Rich Farm.







It seemed like almost everyday I saw Rich Farm post their special flavors of the day on Facebook and I was making plans for a visit. Many of my friends asked how I could consume all of that ice cream and not weight 1000 pounds. First, after my little mishap, I started embracing #YOLO (you only live once). I am an amazing long-term planner with lists of lists, but I realized that I don't live in the moment enough. And second, I only order the kiddie size as I only need a small amount of something to satisfy my craving.

The family also frequented a few local "family friendly" brew pubs like <u>The Hops Company</u> with indoor/outdoor seating, TVs and many games to play for the kids. And yes, Teri and I were even able to taste an adult beverage or two.





As the days get shorter and the temps get colder, the activity list will certainly change, but I wouldn't bet on opportunity for moss to grow under me!

As many of you know, I have gone to a quasi online calendar so you can book an appointment when you want to and not just when we're in the office or respond to your email. For now, I do not include evening meetings nor early morning ones, but I will try and accommodate as best I can.

If you would like to schedule a meeting, Skype, FaceTime or call, please click on the link below and give it a try. My calendar is now open through December.

#### https://schedulewithpaul.as.me/

Don't forget about our blog, www.investfortomorrowblog.com for shorter-term analysis.

You can sign up to receive notifications when a new blog has been posted here.

http://www.investfortomorrow.com/BlogAlerts.asp

### Yet Another Target Hit - Who Knew???

As stocks headed into November the Dow Industrials, S&P 500 and NASDAQ 100 were all at or very, very close to all-time highs. I know this comes as no surprise to my readers as I have written about my upside projections over and over and over. Dow 28,000 was next, a target I began discussing at the end of 2017. Five straight closes above that level will open up my long, long, longstanding target of Dow 30,000, a pie in the sky number I first floated when the Dow closed above 20,000 several years ago.

You certainly wouldn't know stocks have behaved well this year if you listened to or watched the media. Almost all of the stories are just so negative and even dire. Earnings are bad. The economy is essentially in recession. Europe is a disaster. China is falling off a cliff. Tariffs will raise prices for consumers. The President colluded with Russia. Trump to be impeached. Sanders and Warren are attacking wealth and success. It's enough to send you screaming into the night.

This bull market has feasted on all of the hate and negativity. No bull market in history has been more disavowed than this one. Yet every single time stocks weaken, every bear comes out of the woodwork with forecasts of a bear market, economy about to plunge and a repeat of 2008 or worse.

Most of those clowns just write newsletters and try to swindle people out of their money by predicting constant gloom, doom and Armageddon. Negativity definitely sells. Eventually, a day of reckoning will come and you can bet that those same clowns will claim success, fill the media with their nonsensical ads and try to peddle even more expensive newsletters, completely ignoring history or hiding from it.

### **Concerns in the Very Short-Term**

Let's start this article with the big picture. The bull market is alive and reasonably well and will live on into 2020. Next year will likely present some challenges, but we will cross that bridge when I start to work on my 2020 Fearless Forecast.

For the most part, I have been positive on stocks throughout 2019 with a few exceptions, especially in June and July. At no time did I see the bull market ending nor a significant 10%+ decline coming. Buying any and all weakness has been my theme and for the most part, that has worked. Of course, like every year, I did have my share of flops when I dialed down on a more granular investment level.

While I remain positive on stocks over the intermediate and long-term, a few weeks ago on <a href="https://www.investfortomorrowblog.com">www.investfortomorrowblog.com</a>, I turned neutral in the very short-term. By "neutral", I mean that I would not commit new cash nor would I add risk to portfolios. Today, I am a bit more negative in the very short-term. Stocks could stay strong and move sideways for a few weeks or they could mildly pull back 1-4%. In either case, December should be a good month for stocks to finish the year just like it started. I expect Dow 30,000 to be a frequently talked about target in 2020 for all those people who laughed and snickered when I offered it at 20,000, 23,000 and 25,000.

Why the change in the very short-term?

No, I haven't become bored being positive. A few cracks have started to develop in the market's foundation. In no particular order, we have the NASDAQ become very split, meaning a roughly equal number of stocks making new highs and lows with the index at all-time highs. That suggests a weakening beneath the surface. This has been occurring for more than a week. And just yesterday, the NYSE stocks joined that party.

One of my favorite indicators, the NYSE Advance/Decline Line has stalled as prices have marched higher. The warning is very minor which is why I don't see much but a short-term blip coming.



At the market lows in August, options traders were universally negative as you can see below where the lower chart spikes higher. Traders were positioning for lower prices. These traders are usually wrong en masse at extremes. Looking at the far right of the chart, these same traders are now positioned exactly opposite. They are "all" looking for higher prices to a degree that hasn't been seen in a while.



Traders who speculate in volatility has become very complacent, looking for historically low movement into January. They also do not have an enviable track record. At the same time, hedge funds, which has missed the majority of rallies for more than a decade, have suddenly increased their exposure to stocks, not exactly a warm and fuzzy feeling.

Finally, another favorite indicator of mine, high yield bonds, has softened as stocks have moved higher. In other words, junk bonds are not confirming the move higher.



To the casual reader, all this evidence I posted, and there's more, seems like the decline should be a lot more than just a 1-4% decline. However, always remember that price is the final arbiter and while there may be cracks in the foundation, the house remains solid. Price can and has stood up for months, quarters and years while the foundation not only cracked, but crumbled.

Given how strong the year has been and with only 6 weeks left, I think it is going to be very difficult for the bears to make much headway on the downside. This is not 2018 when I first sounded the alarm at the end of Q3 that something was amiss. Stocks should pause or mildly pullback. That's what the evidence suggests. Or, they could completely ignore the warnings and power straight ahead to year-end. I don't think that's the case, but it's not out of the question given how much cash is waiting for weakness to buy.

IF I am wrong and stocks do nothing but go higher into January, I will have a much different and more negative tune to begin the New Year.

#### Do NOT Use Public WiFi

On a recent flight to Baltimore, I read an article written for advisors by Devin Kropp from Horsesmouth, a website I subscribe to and make a first read every day. This one really caught my attention because it had to do with cybersecurity, a very relevant topic for all of us and one that won't be going away anytime soon.

In fact, my great friend, peer and colleague, Sam Jones, and I were literally just having a conversation about it the day before. This is all on top of several conversations I have had with a prospective client who does cybersecurity for municipalities and corporations. He scared the dickens out of me with some horror stories from the front lines. Anyway, the article is a good read and you can fund it below.

In today's world, we are more connected than ever. Smartphones, tablets, and laptops allow us to communicate with others easily and at all times. But that communication requires an Internet connection-and not all options are created equal.

Free public Wi-Fi has become a public good of sorts. Everywhere we go-from our friends' homes to coffee shops to airports-we ask for the Wi-Fi information. We're used to the constant connection and think very little about the security of the network.

## The danger

And hackers take advantage of this fact-most public Wi-Fi networks can be hacked in mere minutes from as far as 100 feet away. Hackers use programs that allow their computers to eavesdrop on other devices connected to the Wi-Fi network. These devices allow them to see everything you do on your device-passwords you type, credit card numbers you use, messages you write-as well as potentially install malware onto your device.

It's important that you understand the dangers of free public Wi-Fi before connecting. By free public Wi-Fi, we mean any network that anyone can connect to with or without a password. Even if your local coffee shop requires a password, it doesn't mean that the network is secure. A hacker can also get the password by purchasing a latte.

If you do connect to open, unsecured Wi-Fi you do not want to log in to your email, make any purchases, or enter any financial website as others may be able to steal your password or information.

### The power of your phone

If you do need to conduct personal information online while you are away from a secure Internet connection you'll want to consider one of these methods.

For a quick connection, we recommend turning off the Wi-Fi and using your data. Doing so will basically turn your phone into a hotspot and will create a private connection for you to use. Of course, if you have a limited amount of data you'll want to monitor your use closely to be sure you do not go over your limit.

If you connect on the go a lot, you may consider investing in a mobile hotspot device. These devices cost anywhere from \$50-\$130 plus the cost of wireless broadband and provide you with a secure, private Internet connection. You'll want to treat this device as you would your wireless router. You must choose the strongest encryption settings and change the default username and password. You don't want strangers using your connection.

### Invest in your own network

Another recommended option is using a software program called a Virtual Private Network (VPN) when connecting to unsecured networks. A VPN is a service that creates a private Internet connection for only you to use when you are connected to public Wi-Fi. Essentially, it's like a private tunnel from your device to the Internet.

When connected to public Internet, launch your VPN program. This will automatically make your connection private and encrypt any data you share while connected. Hackers will not be able to spy and record what you are doing, making it safe to input information such as passwords or payment card details.

There are many VPN options and it is best to do some research to find a program that best fits your needs. Keep in mind that there are some free VPN services but they may have restrictions such as the amount of time you can be connected. Paid versions usually offer more flexibility and cost anywhere from about \$2 to \$10 per month and typically cover up to five different devices.

Some well-reviewed and popular VPN programs are <u>NordVPN</u>, <u>Private Internet Access</u>, and <u>HotSpot Shield</u>. After deciding on a program, it's important to take some time to understand how it works to be sure you are fully protected when surfing the web.

#### Connect with ease

No matter what method you choose, you must find a way to protect yourself when connecting on the go. A few minutes of free internet is not worth the hours it takes to clean up an identity theft. Be cognizant of the networks you are connecting to and be sure that your device is not setup to connect to any available network without your knowledge.

It is also worth turning your Bluetooth off when not in use-hackers often spoof Bluetooth networks as devices will automatically connect to it and they can access your information.

### **Upcoming Appearances**

Yahoo Finance's On The Move - November 21st from 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Fox Business' Making Money - November 21st from 2:00pm to 2:30pm

Yahoo Finance's On The Move -December 10th from 11:00am to 12:00pm

TD Ameritrade's Network - December 10th at 1:10pm

Fox Business' Making Money - December 11th from 2:00pm to 2:30pm

You can view most of the past segments by clicking below.

# **Media Appearances**

(http://www.investfortomorrow.com/InMedia.asp)

### **Investment Quotes/Adages To Live By**

- "In God we trust, all others bring data."
- W. Edwards Deming
- "The only easy day was yesterday."
- The U.S. Marines
- "When in doubt, get out!"
- "If it's obvious, it's obviously wrong."
- -Joe Granville
- "It's ok to be wrong, but it's not ok to stay wrong."
- "This time is different."
- "The markets require the patience of a dozen men."
- -Robert Rhea
- "Luck is the residue of effort."

"The most bullish thing a market can do is go up in the face of bad news."

"The most bearish thing a market can do is go down in the face of good news."

"The market can stay irrational longer than you can stay solvent."

-John Maynard Keynes

"Government is best which governs least" - Thomas Jefferson

Inflation is the one form of taxation that can be imposed without legislation.
-Milton Friedman

"You cannot legislate the poor into freedom by legislating the wealthy out of freedom. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that my dear friend, is about the end of any nation. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it." - Dr. Adrian Rogers, 1984

"Bear markets seem to be divided into three phases: the first being the abandonment of hopes upon which the final uprush of the preceding bull market was predicted; the second, the reflection of decreased earnings power and reduction of dividends, and the third representing distressed liquidation of securities which must be sold to meet living expenses. Each of these phases seems to be divided by a secondary reaction which is often erroneously assumed to be the beginning of a bull market."

- Robert Rhea

"Free enterprise is a rough and competitive game. Nobody too big to fail. Nobody too small to succeed. It is a hell of a lot better than government control." - Ronald Reagan via Dan Kennedy

"A government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take everything you have." - Gerald Ford via Dan Kennedy

"The problem with socialism is that, sooner or later, you run out of other people's money." - Margaret Thatcher

"Diversification alone is no longer sufficient to temper risk... You need something more to manage risk well."

- Mohamed El-Erian

"A little bit at a time adds up to a lot in no time"

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