



Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

Someone ought to declare March 8th a “day.” Pearl Harbor Day - December 7th - was established to remember the lives lost in the unprovoked and secretive attack launched by the Japanese that triggered the War in the Pacific during World War II. For our generation, “9/11” has become a calendar marker for the lives lost in the unprovoked and secretive attack launched by the radical Islamic Terrorists that triggered the next phases of the War on Terror that may never end. *Days have significance...*

But, why March 8th? It was on this day in history - last year, in fact - when the attack on our economy - and, the world’s economic systems - “found bottom.” The Dow Jones Industrial Average hit its low point (6517)... and whether invested in stocks or not, that day, no one knew that it was the turning point. History now says that March 8th, 2009 was a buying opportunity... but, that day, the multitudes ran for cover, wondering if the next day would bring even



more bad news.

We’ve been recovering. As I write, the Market stands at 10,566 (*early Monday morning*). Things aren’t good yet... but they’re not where we were, just a year ago. *What have you learned in this last year?*

Here’s what I’ve been reminded: it’s easy to get distracted. Our only stock holdings are in the 401(k) styled retirement accounts, and the monthly reports simply remind me how important it is to take the concept of “retirement” out of our thinking! If I spent my days watching the movements of the markets so that I could calculate the start of a future defined by non-working leisure, it would be a distraction that would compound my losses!

Nehemiah was a Jewish hostage

in Persia (*Iran*) - around 440 B.C. - when he received word from his brother, Hanani, about condition of Jerusalem. The city walls were destroyed - the future Capitol of the Messiah - was in ruins. Nehemiah had earned a position of trust and influence with Persia's king, Artaxerxes. His professional assignment with the king had been devoted to serving their earthly challenges, but he was now convicted to offer his service into the Kingdom of God. The Old Testament book bearing his name recounts his redeployment to Jerusalem, to rebuild the walls. *His Calling...*

He went to work... and the enemies of God were livid. Their strategy: distract him. *"When word came to... our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it - though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates - Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: 'Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono.' But they were scheming to harm me; so I sent messengers to them with this reply: 'I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?' Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer."* (Nehemiah 6:1-4) Fast forward, 2500 years: the enemy is

scheming to harm us. *If only he could distract us from our great work...*

Great work? That's your significant service to the Kingdom. ***Distraction?*** That's anything that gets our eye off that bull's-eye. The *weapons* of war have changed a lot, but the *strategies* of war haven't changed much through history. Most people live distracted; they're no concern to the bad guys. The ones who draw the attention of Evil are the ones who are "carrying on a great project." They are in the cross-hairs; they are the targets of schemes to harm them and stop the work...

Are you one of the people the Enemy targets for distraction and harm? I believe that I'm on his list... and that's just where I want to be. If you're working on *your* section of the wall, *you're on the list*, as well. *Expect his attempts to draw you away from what really matters...*

Remember December 7th, 1941. Remember September 11th, 2001. Remember March 8th, 2009. And, *remember what you're here for...*

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