Gottesman Wealth Advisory BMO Nesbitt Burns





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Abe Gottesman, cra, MBA Investment Advisor, Portfolio Manager

Victoria Karkar Administrative Assistant

1 First Canadian Place

38th Floor M5X 1H3

Tel: 416-359-7721 Toll Free: 1-800-263-2286

www.GottesmanWealthAdvisory.com

Reflecting on 2020

To say that 2020 was an interesting year just very well might be the understatement of the year.

I have done extensive reading on what transpired in the markets during 2020 and I came across the following guidelines which apply all the time but are especially relevant after the tumultuous year we just experienced.

- *Investing is not a competition*. There are no prizes for winning but there are severe penalties for losing.
- Emotions have no place in investing. You are generally better off doing the opposite of what you "feel" you should be doing.
- The ONLY investments that you can "buy and hold" are those that provide an income stream with a return of principal function.
- *Market valuations* (except at extremes) are very poor market timing devices.
- Fundamentals and Economics drive long-term investment decisions "Greed and Fear" drive short-term trading. Knowing what type of investor you are determines the basis of your strategy.
- "Market timing" is impossible—managing exposure to risk is both logical and possible.
- Investment is about discipline and patience. Lacking either one can be destructive to your investment goals.



- There is no value in daily media commentary— turn off the television and save yourself the mental capital.
- Investing is no different than gambling—both are "guesses" about future outcomes based on probabilities. The winner is the one who knows when to "fold" and when to go "all in".
- No investment strategy works all the time. The trick is knowing the difference between a bad investment strategy and one that is temporarily out of favor.

Happy Investing and most importantly, Stay Safe.



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