

## Navigating today's markets with wisdom

During my career in the financial services industry I have read truckloads of finance related books, magazines, articles and research reports. I have underlined, highlighted and dog-eared pages I felt were particularly useful in my practice as a financial advisor. I have come to rely less on the shorter-term economic forecasts, and have paid more attention to what my mentor Nick Murray refers to as "timeless truths". The media, particularly daily papers, weekly magazines and 24-hour news networks tend to focus on the noise of the day. Prime examples of this are headlines such as "7 things you NEED to know for tomorrow, the economy MAY slump, corporate earnings MIGHT fall". Thinking back to these types of headlines, I don't think that any of them ever really put money in my pocket. Ignoring the constant blare of the type of "news" certainly has not harmed me.

I have great appreciation, and true allegiance to three of the great pillars that have written extensively on creating long-term wealth. Here is a small taste of their wisdom, which I am happy to share with you:

*Systematic investing will pay off ultimately, regardless of when it is begun, provided that it is adhered to conscientiously and courageously under all market conditions"*

**Benjamin Graham**

Father of Value Investing

*"The function of economic forecasting is to make astrology look respectable".*

**John Kenneth Galbraith**

Author and economist

*"A lot of people with high IQs are terrible investors because they've got terrible temperaments. You need to keep raw emotion under control".*

**Charles Munger**

Vice-Chairman, Berkshire Hathaway

To remain disciplined and focused on a long-term goal, such as funding your retirement, requires that you not let your emotions get in the way. By controlling the desire to make changes during every market top and bottom, you can help avoid costly investment mistakes that will rob you of your ability to build real long-term wealth.

No one knows where the stock market is heading next week, next month. The vast majority of predictions by professional strategists are wrong. Why, because the Universe did not give us the ability to see the future. What we have been given is the ability to use our common sense. We are all aware that every current economic situation will change, given enough time. Everything that is high might one day be low. Interest rates, the price of oil, the rate of inflation, your health and the stock market; all will change. Nothing remains static.

Re-read the quotes above and see if you agree and can incorporate some of this wisdom into your investing life. Your future wealth might depend on it.

Rodger Alan Friedman has over 3 decades of experience designing and managing retirement portfolios and advising clients on retirement matters. For additional information and a free special report on preparing for retirement, please visit my website: [RodgerOnRetirement.com](http://RodgerOnRetirement.com)

\*This information does not purport to be a complete description of the securities, markets, or developments referred to in this material. Opinions expressed are those of the author. All opinions are as of this date and are subject to change without notice.