

Chapter 19

This Is Most Definitely the Final Chapter and Final Edition

There's an old saying, "never say never." I had previously stated the fifth edition of my book was the last. However, personal and business circumstances since that edition was published in 2021 would leave the book incomplete unless I penned a new "final" chapter.

By early 2021, I had closed the sports end of my business and my dream office in Spring Lake, New Jersey. By the end of that year, I made a personal investment decision so radical that few could buy into it, lost my best friend in early 2022, and by the end of 2022, became so depressed that I lost the will to live and had to be hospitalized. What came out of all this required an updated Chapter 19.

"All great changes are preceded by chaos," said Deepak Chopra. For me, this began with a 2021 financial decision most, including my wife, considered radical. I determined that holding physical gold was likely to provide superior

capital appreciation compared with general equities and bonds over the coming years. I don't believe any of the clients of the financial planning group I've been part of for 25 years implemented such a strategy to its fullest. One client did sell a multi-million-dollar bond portfolio and bought mining shares with that capital. He is happy. It proved accurate, as ownership of gold over U.S. general equities offered roughly a three-times better return while U.S. bonds lost serious money during that time frame.

In March 2022, my best friend suddenly passed away. Later in the year, I became greatly depressed, had severe insomnia, and truly lost the will to live. I was hospitalized and ended the year with no belief in any happy New Year's resolutions.

By spring 2023, I started to come out of the rut, thanks in part to a wonderful psychiatrist who helped identify that my battles with depression are genetically driven, and that the loss of my friend was a severe blow that opened old childhood wounds I had suppressed. I also put my foot back in an industry I thought I left for good in 2013: metals and mining.

Despite this dark period, I went on to have perhaps the best five-year stretch of my career for overall accuracy in market calls and individual investment choices. But, to use an old phrase, I had to take the good with the bad. I became overly passionate about one stock, which caused losses for me—larger than I ever imagined—and for those who followed me as well.

While my daughter's wedding in the summer of 2025 was my greatest joy since her birth, the event also sharpened something that is no longer far off: the reality of my mortality. I've adopted a song by the late Toby Keith, "Don't Let the

the Old Man In.” Daily life isn’t what it used to be. I half-joke with others my age that I want to find the guy who told me to wait for my golden years. So far, aging has been more bronze than gold.

With my 70th birthday just months away (April 2, 2026), I have concluded that the good Lord has kept me alive to be a flickering light in an ever-darkening economic, political and social world. Wearing my Catholic Christian faith on my sleeve in business, at a time when few in the financial world openly declare “Christ is King” or build their principles on the Holy Bible, has greatly lessened new-client opportunities. But those who do become clients are most appreciative that I’m an exception to the rule.

Before I go, I wouldn’t be the “Wall Street Whiz Kid” if I didn’t prognosticate one last time about what I anticipate for the foreseeable future. Keep in mind that no one, including me, knows the future except Almighty God. Anyone who claims to peer into a crystal ball and predict the financial future will only become an expert at eating lots of broken glass.

I wasn’t around before America’s Civil War (though some days I feel old enough), but I can’t believe the country could have been more divided than it is now. The middle class has been pounded to near extinction and so has the middle ground on nearly every social and political opinion. Increasingly it seems there is only the extreme left and the far right, with little appetite for any view that lies between. Up until I penned this chapter (Mid-September 2025), Wall Street stayed insulated from the chaos and division Main Street USA is experiencing, but if the division and disharmony continue, that separation won’t last.

While Donald Trump's 2024 reelection has given some people hope that all is or soon will be well again, I believe no single person can reverse what has been taking place here for decades.

I believe demonic darkness is attempting to engulf our nation and the world, led by billionaire globalist evildoers. These globalist elites, along with the Deep State and the social media tyrants of Silicon Valley, are rich, influential, arrogant and the greatest hypocrites ever to roam the earth. They no longer hide in the shadows but publicly flaunt their capture of our government, electoral systems, financial systems, mainstream media, social media and health care system. They may have tempered their openness thanks to Trump's election, but they remain fully committed to their ways. Little stands in their way unless we return to the Judeo-Christian values that helped make America great for its first 200 years or so. With more Americans and immigrants being agnostic or atheists, the "End Times" may not be here, but we are getting a preview.

The evil elite have reviewed the intellectual, ethical and mathematical aptitude of the masses and found it lacking. They trash the Constitution, destroy small business owners, impoverish what remains of the middle class, and desire to impose totalitarian restrictions on a compliant and obedient population.

A nation once populated by independent, self-reliant frontiersmen has rotted from within, as the country is now populated by millions of weak-minded, submissive, docile sheep who allow themselves to be bullied and propagandized into paralysis while texting, tweeting and posting their every mindless thought to followers. It's nothing less than sad.

Having been in and around financial markets for over 40 years, I can sense we're in the biggest bubble in history. This comes at a time when the wealthiest 10% of Americans own about 86% of all assets. The next 40% own the remaining 14%, while the bottom 50% own virtually none. Two-thirds of Americans live paycheck to paycheck, and many don't even have a thousand dollars saved for emergencies.

The challenge with bubbles is they are only identified after the fact. A bubble-like market can remain aloft far longer and rise far higher than its naysayers expect. As long as the market's climax isn't widely recognized, defenders stand ready to explain why this time is different. It takes time and a clear peak in price to convince the majority that a bubble did take place. Sadly, by then many have seen their dreams turn into nightmares and their financial wealth flushed down the tubes with the markets.

Finally, I end by reminding you that America has been robbing Peter to pay Paul, and Peter has all but gone broke doing so. One day—don't ask me when—our 24/7 printing presses will no longer be able to keep running without a dear price. An enormous debt bill will come due, and the austere life that follows will be no picnic. The debt we're racking up as a nation is a tab someone we love will be stuck with. One of the only advantages to getting old is that my generation won't have to pay this toll.

I reiterate what I said in previous chapters: whether you're talking about the finances of the federal government or your household budget, remember that most debt is bad. There is not one positive verse in the Bible on debt. God knew what it would lead to, and unfortunately America will find out sooner than you think.

In addition to a debt crisis, I believe America is in the midst of several other crises, including but not limited to a retirement and aging crisis, an infrastructure and natural-disaster crisis, and one few will dare speak out about but may end up the worst of all: an Islamic war on Western civilization that has engulfed much of Europe, Canada and now is growing here in America.

The Bottom Line

I continue to advocate ratcheting back spending to live a financially responsible lifestyle, and I remind all who will listen to this Wall Street geezer that living within one's means, or better, being debt-free, is the only way to true financial freedom, no matter your income or savings level.

Thank you for reading my book. I pray my testimony helps you or someone you love to challenge the way you think about life, adversity and finances, and that it gives glory to the Creator of all that is good in the universe.

*“Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but let God transform you into a new person
by changing the way you think.”*

— Romans 12:2