

FOURTH QUARTER STRATEGIES - February 13, 2016

Have you ever caught yourself constantly checking some electronic device for new messages? Well, there's a term for such behavior. It's called FOMO, which is a quaint acronym for the "Fear Of Missing Out." Actually, this is not a new phenomena, since I believe we've always had this inherent fear of missing out even in a slower paced world. This electronic age has made information so accessible that our interest is piqued to a whole new level. Let's consider some of the consequences of FOMO.

Certainly having so much information at our fingertips can be useful, but I strongly doubt that most of the information we garner has much value at all. As an insurance professional I need to be available to my clients and they appreciate my willingness to get back to them fairly quickly. This electronic age allows us to respond almost immediately, but it also can give us data overload. Personally and professionally I need to turn off all my devices every evening.

Our bodies are not designed to operate 24/7 in connecting to the world! In a hyperactive world that's always on the go, it's quite tempting to imagine the real opportunity is the next action item in our favorite electronic account. Social Media plays a big role in the lives on the younger generations and I imagine a major cellular outage would cause many older adults as well to lose control. Our connection to the world would be disrupted and we'd have to rely on some antiquated means to communicate.

With a continuing increase in deaths caused by texting/connecting while we attempt to drive around town, I now find myself warily watching those drivers around me who are not focusing on the task at hand. Crossing an intersection these days has become extremely dangerous.

Suicides are increasing and Social Media appears to be one of the culprits. You can be having a great morning and by midday you can be on a downer, if you buy into all the hype that your "friends" on the internet are sharing about how great things are in their lives. Very few people post those things that aren't going well. Cyber-bullying is another real concern that faces many in their formidable teen years.

I have one real FOMO concern. I know lots of good folks out there who need to be concerned with me. You see, as a follower of Christ I've learned to "love people with all their flaws" and I'm afraid that many of them will miss out on the opportunity to experience Heaven. Some of these folks are convinced that there is no God. Some are convinced there is no Heaven. Some just don't want to deal with the subject of the eternal life that God offers to each of us. They'd prefer to just "eat, drink and be merry" and take their chances at the end of journey.

If you are "unconvinced" I want to share John 3:16 with you. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. In verse 17 Jesus continues, "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him." Please read the Passages to Ponder that follow as well.

Here to serve,

Jim Langley. CLU

Passages to Ponder: Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; John 1:1,14; Acts16:31; James 2:19, Romans 10:9-13

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Ephesians 2:8-9 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Romans 3:23 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 1:1 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

The Deity of Jesus Christ

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of ¹the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Acts 16:31 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³¹ They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

James 2:19 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

Romans 10:9-13 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; ¹³ for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."