

## FOURTH QUARTER STRATEGIES – April 9, 2016

One of my favorite TV shows these days is UNDERCOVER BOSS, a two-time Emmy Award-winning reality series that follows high-level executives as they slip anonymously into the rank-and-file of their own organizations. Each week, a different leader will sacrifice the comfort of their corporate offices for an undercover mission to examine the inner workings of their operation. These are nationally-known companies that have often grown substantially and top management has somewhat lost touch with the reality of the people and dynamic processes of the company. These top executives are brought back to reality as they get down and dirty in the ranks of their businesses. At the end of the show, those who worked directly with the undercover boss are brought to the corporate office to meet the boss and find out the true identity of the trainee. Having spent a decade in the human resources profession I find the whole process quite fascinating. Let's talk about another undercover boss.

Whether you own a business, manage an operation or simply hold a rank-and-file position in your firm, I contend we all have an "undercover boss" who is watching each of us very closely. In fact, he's not only watching us at work, but he's observing every personal action and reaction of every day of our lives! You see, God has access to our every move and He's fully aware how we respond to all of life's circumstances. Yes, He's even watching over every word I write and I take what I write very seriously for that very reason. Like the undercover bosses in the reality series He truly cares about the big picture and He wants and deserves our very best. He wants us to be devoted to our work, our families, our neighbors and Him personally. He orchestrates our lives and loves when we work together for His good.

I truly feel that once I got a handle on this concept, life took on a much greater meaning for me personally. I'm certain you've heard some Christians claim, "God is my co-pilot." on more than one occasion. Well, I've come to accept that God is truly 'the pilot' and I still have a learner's permit and know I'm not ready to fly solo. I want Him to take the wheel and I find great comfort in just going along for the long ride. I often wonder how some people survive the many challenges of life without admitting that God exists and cares for our well-being. After all, He loves us so much that He sacrificed His only Son for our salvation.

There's one more thing that we all need to understand. There will be a judgment day and we'll all come before the Undercover Boss on that day. First of all, I am certain He will know who I am and accept me into His Heaven for eternity. Secondly, I look forward to Him saying "Well done good and faithful servant." I trust you are prepared for that day when you will meet Jesus face-to-face. If for some reason you doubt your salvation and worthiness to enter His kingdom, just remember our Undercover Boss wants to have a personal relationship with you and I highly recommend you ask Him to enter your heart while there's still time – for the day is soon approaching. Let Him bless you beyond your expectations!

Here to serve,

Jim Langley, CLU

Passages to Ponder: Isaiah 2:11-12; Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 10:30, 11:28-30; 25:12-13; John 10:14-18

*© 2015, all rights reserved. Note: Jim Langley has been an agent with New York Life since 1983 and an active member of CBMC of Santa Barbara since 1987. These "Fourth Quarter Strategies" discussions are designed to "light a fire" under Christian business and professional men so we might be more effective in the marketplace for the sake of Christ, our Lord and Savior! Please visit our website @ <http://www.fourthquarterstrategies.com>.*

Passages to Ponder: Isaiah 2:11-12; Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 10:30, 11:28-30; 25:12-13; John 10:14-18

**Isaiah 2:11-12 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> The eyes of the arrogant will be humbled  
and human pride brought low;  
the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.

<sup>12</sup> The LORD Almighty has a day in store  
for all the proud and lofty,  
for all that is exalted  
(and they will be humbled),

**Isaiah 9:6-7 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.

**Matthew 10:30 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>30</sup> And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

**Matthew 11:28-30 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

**Matthew 25:12-13 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'

<sup>13</sup> "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

**John 10:14-18 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."