

Fourth Quarter Strategies – Saturday, October 28, 2017

For the past 40 years or so there's one "how to" business/personal growth book that has continually been a best seller in the United States. I distinctly remember getting my first copy of *WHAT COLOR IS YOUR PARACHUTE?* and applying the wisdom contained in the pages of the easy-to-read manual on job hunting. What I applied from the pages of that one resource helped me to land several lucrative jobs in the Human Resources arena before I changed directions and started my insurance career at age forty. The complete title of the book these days is *"What Color Is Your Parachute? A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career-Changers"* and to date more than ten million copies have been printed. According to the author, Dick Bolles, who is now in his eighties, more than ten thousand people purchase the book each month. This book has been the definitive resource for job-seekers for the last four decades. But let's talk about seekers in a more general sense.

Most people these days may not be seeking a better paying job or looking to change careers. Yet, they are certainly seeking the intangible qualities of a better life moving forward. I've always been intrigued by the children's game "Hide and Seek" which most young children learn very early in life. I remember my early years enjoying the game and always liked seeking out others' hiding places. These days it looks as though most video games address this seek or search and destroy phenomena. I don't advocate the destroy aspect of these games but do recall enjoying searching for coins with my daughter in the early Super Mario Bros. video series years ago. Once I realized how much time I was spending playing these silly games, I decided to limit my involvement in order to pursue more worthwhile endeavors.

Most of my time these days is spent seeking Truth, which to me is synonymous with the Word of God. I seek other places for truth, but I have not found the whole truth anywhere other than through the proper teaching and reading of holy scripture. As I said, there are plenty of places that we can seek for the meaning of life and peace, but all my seeking leads me back to God's Word. In Hebrews 11:6, the writer wisely presents *"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."* In other words, if we are seeking yet not willing to believe that God is real, we will not be able to find him. All our efforts will be in vain since we are seeking something other than the Creator of the universe.

In Isaiah 55:6-8, the prophet counsels us *"Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the Lord."* I've always been intrigued by that passage as I continue to seek His face and His ways. We're talking about the supernatural while we live in a world of natural phenomena. So, the question is "What color is your parachute?"

MY parachute is golden and it was packed by Christ Jesus on the cross at Calvary! Skydivers always pack their own parachutes, since their lives depend upon it opening up without any hitches. My golden parachute has no hitches since I trust in Him explicitly. And when I leave this worldly existence, I know that I will instantly land in the Heavens with my Savior and Lord. I look forward to reaching His celestial home one of these days and I'd like to see you join me there for eternity. Seek Him and His face soon, before it's too late.

Passages to Ponder: 1 Chronicles 28:9-10; 2 Chronicles 7:13-14; Proverbs 8:17-21; Ephesians 3:10-12

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1 Chronicles 28:9-10 New International Version (NIV)

⁹“And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever. ¹⁰Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house as the sanctuary. Be strong and do the work.”

2 Chronicles 7:13-14 New International Version (NIV)

¹³“When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, ¹⁴if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Proverbs 8:17-21 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁷I love those who love me,
and those who seek me find me.

¹⁸With me are riches and honor,
enduring wealth and prosperity.

¹⁹My fruit is better than fine gold;
what I yield surpasses choice silver.

²⁰I walk in the way of righteousness,
along the paths of justice,

²¹bestowing a rich inheritance on those who love me
and making their treasuries full.

Ephesians 3:10-12 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.