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THE NEXT “WALL OF WORRY”

by Kamyar Kashfi

Congress and the President have passed a few laws, reviewed and adjusted revenues and spending and will do it all again in the coming days, weeks, months and years. In other words, they did their job and will actually have to keep working, just like most people. I hope there is vigorous debate, lots of shouting and disagreement and that it's not easy. I hope that Congress has a full plate of issues to deliberate. I prefer that to it being easy and the 365 day annual campaign calendar. Let them get reelected the old fashioned way. Let us review their results and make our own decisions rather than choose between ideologies. Representing America is supposed to be a difficult occupation worthy of hard work and sacrifice. The process never ends. It will endure as long as we are a democratic nation. We will never have all of the answers and things will change from time to time. The Fiscal Cliff was nothing more than a dramatic reference to what our democratic process is and has always been; a series of measures and changes. The Fiscal Cliff was a way to turn something mundane into something fantastic and satisfy a certain penchant for fantastic end games. No sooner than a deal was reached, the media turned its focus to the next set of negotiations, the next deadline, the next countdown clock and the next “Wall of Worry”. 1

“October passed and now the markets will try to climb the next wall of worry. Election Results? Fiscal cliffs? There is always something to worry about. That worry leads to fear and that fear creates opportunities. Perhaps it is time to review your portfolio and find out what opportunities we can take advantage of.” 2 *Kamyar Kashfi Nov. 2012 Newsletter*

As investors, we must think beyond the noise and not lose sight of a few things. Reports indicate that the economy is picking up, unemployment has improved, some of corporate America is making lots of money, balance sheets are full of cash, the Euro-Crisis has abated, China is recovering, real estate is improving and many banks are making record profits. These things I have just mentioned were at one point in time or another going to be the cause of a financial calamity.

To be fair, they all contributed their share of volatility. Volatility creates opportunities! Time and time again, the market has climbed each successive “Wall of Worry”. Investors who were diversified and rebalanced from time to time experienced low volatility and positive returns. You must remember that the classic way to invest for the long term is to stay invested, stay diversified and make changes as opportunities arise to do so. Any other strategy entails more risk and potentially more return or loss. If the emotion of doing so is too great, seek out an advisor who has the experience and proper objectivity to get you through those nervous times. Call me.

Perhaps it is time to review not only your holdings but also your strategy and outlook for the new year and years to come. For a free portfolio review, contact me and we will set up an appointment to do so. Allow me the opportunity to share a fresh perspective on the markets and investing. I have the luxury of not only my own experience as a professional dealing in the markets over the last seventeen years, but also that of all of the investors I have dealt with over the years. My view is totally different from where I am sitting than any individual investor could possibly have. Let's make some time to review. It's a new year and a perfect time to start planning.

1 <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-01-02/bipartisan-house-backs-tax-deal-vote-as-next-fight-looms.html>

2 <http://www.stockcross.com/docs/newsletters/newsletter-november-web2D47EB740FE8.pdf>

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