For anyone just starting out in Investing or Retirement Planning.

Markets, Investments, and Retirement for Beginners - Start Here!

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Markets, Investments, and Retirement for Beginners - Start Here

A step-by-step approach to Investing and Retirement

Short, Simple, Uncomplicated

If you are not in the Stock Market, but have always wanted to learn how, start here. A "must read" for anyone thinking about starting a Retirement plan.

> Learn how to Invest Fast, Simple, Easy

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As we have seen from the Compound Interest calculations, time is the key. The sooner that you start, the better. You must be very patient. And start saving NOW - Even if it's only \$1 !!!!! (though \$10 would be better).

If you don't start now (or don't have the ten bucks), this shouldn't stop you from nagging your children and friends and anybody else about getting their own act together NOW. Show them the numbers from the chapter above and pester them until they start a retirement/investment plan NOW!

If your kids have grown up, are out of school, and into the working world, you would be well advised to nag them horribly about getting their retirement plans in motion. Don't tell them that you're hoping to move in with them when you get old. C

* The sooner that you start saving, the sooner you can retire.

* You must be very patient, as retirement takes decades to achieve.

Get out of debt (the BEST Investment)

Getting out of debt is the most important first step in any investment or retirement plan. Indeed, paying off your high-interest credit cards can be the best investment one can make. Consider that I have \$100 to invest in the stock market (where I expect to make 10% on my money), and that I also owe a lot of money on a Credit Card that charges me 20% interest.

If I put the money in the market, I make about \$10 in a year (10% of \$100 = \$10), but pay \$20 (20% of \$100) in credit card charges over the course of that year by not using the money to get out of debt.

Net profit: 10 - 20 = negative 10. I lose money.

If I use the same \$100 towards eliminating my debt, I save \$20 in interest, but make zero in the market. Net profit \$20!

The difference between these two investment strategies is \$30! Get out of debt now!

Let's repeat the above calculation assuming a 15% return on investment in the stock market, and a credit card with a 15% interest rate. Put the money into the market, and you make 15%, but lose 15% in credit card payments. Net result: Zero. Put the money into paying off the card, and you are guaranteed a 15% return (and don't need to know anything about stocks, or care whether the market goes up or down).

Credit card problems? Make a list of the balances on every credit card that you owe on, and the Interest Rate that each company charges. Always pay off the debt with the highest interest rate first. Many credit card companies will also allow you to transfer balances from other cards, which could allow you to move those high-interest card balances to your lowest-rate card.

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* If none of your current Credit Cards offer a low interest rate, you can take the above strategy a step further by starting a new credit card with a lower rate than any others. Transfer all high-interest rate card balances to this account (and then tear up those high interest rate cards!).

* Often, your existing Credit Card companies will lower your rate if you simply call them up and ask!!!

* Every time that you lower an interest rate one point, your monthly payment will go down a little, allowing you to put more towards eliminating whatever the highest interest rate card is by making extra payments.

* And NEVER make just the "minimum payment", as this is often just enough to cover the interest, without reducing the principal amount of the loan at all. Meaning that you'll never pay off the balance, never ever. You'll be making payments on that old big-screen TV until you die!

Save money on your Phone Bill

The next time that some telemarketer from some rival phone company interrupts your dinner to try to get you to switch, write down the details of their deal (daytime rate, nighttime rate, weekend rate, long-distance rate, monthly fees, etc.). Then tell them NO THANKS!, no matter how good their deal is! The next day, call your own phone company, and tell them about the call, and that you are thinking about switching phone

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