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This Month In History ...

May 2016

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4 Ways to Tweak Your Financial Mindset

We often view financial planning through the lens of "solutions". You have a dilemma, so you look for a way to fix it. But financial health can be a lot like physical health. Whereas taking proactive steps to improve your nutrition or fitness can help you ward off disease, adopting a proactive mindset to your finances can help you build and maintain greater wealth.

That's why we have an entire field called Behavioral Finance! It's all about changing your mindset toward finance, so that you can create a healthier financial future. Consider these four tweaks to your mindset as you continue to plan for retirement.

Switch to a long-term view. For some reason rooted deep in our psychology, humans have a hard time imagining the distant future. Experts have actually used digitally altered photographs (aged to look older) to help jolt people into accepting the eventual reality! You can try that, or any method that helps you to envision yourself in retirement. The point is to switch to a long-term view, so that you make decisions with the future in mind.

Beat the gratification instinct. As you plan for the future, the lure of immediate gratification is likely to interfere with your plans. You might receive a work bonus or tax refund, and feel tempted to quickly spend it on a new high-definition TV. You can overcome the immediate gratification instinct by creating a "windfall plan". Make a plan for any extra money that comes your way, such as deciding that you will stash it in your 401(k) account. Then, when you do receive a windfall, you will be less likely to feel temptation.

Sabotage yourself. Whether a change is good or bad, it's human nature to resist it. You can use that trait against yourself, by setting up automatic contributions to your retirement plan. Later, you are less likely to reduce those contributions, because doing so would require you to make a change.

Overcome the most powerful motivator. Fear is one of the most powerful motivators in human psychology, and often it can lead us to some pretty bad decisions. If you let fear rule your financial life, you might avoid taking reasonable risks that can bring you a substantial payoff. Keep in mind, of course, that taking extreme risks with your money (especially as you get closer to retirement) is rarely advisable. We're just saying that letting fear rule you too much could restrict your growth. Call our office to schedule an appointment, and we can help you decide whether your current investment strategy is in line with an appropriate risk tolerance.

Best Regards,

Brian



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- 28 Close relative
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- 36 Cabinetwork tree
- 38 Breakfast staple
- 41 Yemeni port
- 42 Larch variety 45 Love god
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- 62 Gum tree
- 65 Dire fate 68 Achy
- 69 Rhythmicity
- 70 Departed 71 Golf bag item
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- 2 Literary collection
- 3 Juniper relative
- 4 Glorify

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- 9 ___ Stanley Gardner 10 Morning moisture
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67 Chess pieces

- 64 Draw 66 Inseparable
 - Click here for this month's puzzle solution

More puzzles at www.bambrose.com

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Apricot Scones Flower

Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup sugar, plus extra for sprinkling on top
- 2 ½ teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt Pinch of nutmeg
- 2 tablespoons cold, unsalted butter
- Grated zest of 1 lemon
- 1/3 cup chopped, dried apricots
- ¾ cup heavy cream or whipping
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1 egg volk
- 2 tablespoons apricot preserves

Directions

- 1. Heat the oven to 400°F. Lightly butter a large baking sheet (preferably a light one; darker ones are more likely to make the scones brown too quick-
- 2. Set a sifter inside a large mixing bowl and measure the flour, 1/3 cup of sugar, baking powder, salt, and nutmeg (in that order) into it. Sift the ingredients into the bowl.
- 3. Cut the butter into small pieces and scatter them over the dry ingredients until it is broken into fine flakes.
- 4. Zest the lemon and stir the zest and chopped apricots into the flour.
- 5. Make a well in the dry ingredients and pour the cream all at once and stir the ingredients just until they form a firm dough that pulls together.
- 6. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead two or three times into
- 7. Gently pat the dough into a level 7-inch wide circle and cut it into 8 wedges, as you would a pie. Reassemble the dough wedges on the baking sheet so that they barely touch.
- 8. In a small bowl, whisk together the milk and egg yolk. Brush the mixture on tops of the scones, then sprinkle on a light coat of sugar.
- 9. Bake the scones on the center oven rack for about 15-17 minutes, until golden brown. When they are done, slip a metal spatula under the whole flower and transfer it to a serving dish.
- 10. Spoon the preserves into the center flower and serve. Makes 8 scones.

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Recipe Hints:

From Dedee: This is a recipe I enjoyed doing with my children when they were little, it was a treat for them as well as great way to improve their learning motor skills.



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