

## Welcome Friends,

**"All of us would be better investors if we just made fewer decisions."** - Daniel Kahneman, Nobel Laureate, behavioral economics pioneer

I love the dog days of summer! Baseball season charges forward. Football is just around the corner. Golf and tennis fans enjoy championships. What a great time of year for us sports fans.

It has also been a great year for our financial plans. Global stock markets delivered robust gains in the second quarter of 2017 as stronger earnings growth, upswings in global economic data and diminished political uncertainty in Europe all buoyed markets around the world. The S&P 500 rose 3.1% while domestic economic data continued to plug along at a healthy, if not exciting, pace. First quarter GDP increased at a 1.4% annual rate, helped by unexpectedly higher consumer spending and a bigger jump in exports. It's wonderful to have positive economic data to reflect upon. But even when world events aren't so rosy, we need to remember to be steadfast in our commitment to ourselves — stick to our long-term investment plan and concentrate on the big picture.

I have two videos for you today. One explores what happened in global markets last quarter as well as other pertinent economic news. The other takes a step back to reflect on broader investing and economic trends. In addition to today's strong market, a core lesson we should always seek to remember is to maintain a long-term perspective and not overreact to whatever the latest headlines reveal.

### [Making Sense of Markets Performance Video](#)

### [Making Sense of Market Headlines Video](#)

Now, let's turn our attention to some insight on the impact our behavior has in achieving our investment goals. They say patience is a virtue. And though we know that intellectually, it can be hard to apply, especially when it comes to investing. It is extremely difficult (even for financial professionals) to predict when the "right" time to buy or sell is. Investors may fall into the trap of making panicky, emotional decisions that can put their portfolios at risk. But what happens when you let go of chasing returns or the next hot stock tip? You may discover a less stressful, and ultimately more secure, path to your long-term goals.

### [Don't Just Do Something, Stand There!](#)

Finally, August 21st the first solar eclipse viewable in the contiguous U.S. since 1979 will be in full view in many states from Oregon to South Carolina. Historically, an eclipse was thought to be an omen of things to come, providing fuel for the superstitious. Now it is simply a beautiful, celestial phenomenon. Remember: Never look directly at the sun, even when it is partially covered by the moon, without proper protective eyewear. Don't let this spectacularly rare event be "eclipsed" by other vacation plans!

### [Nine of the Best Places to Watch the Solar Eclipse](#)

I am here for each of you. Please give me a call if you want to talk through your plans to protect your family, your income and your wealth or just want to visit.

[Don't forget to check out our new website.](#) We designed it for you and to help you introduce us to the people you care about in your life. Let us know what you think.

Enjoy your day - it is the only one on the schedule!

Warm Regards,  
**Scott**



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