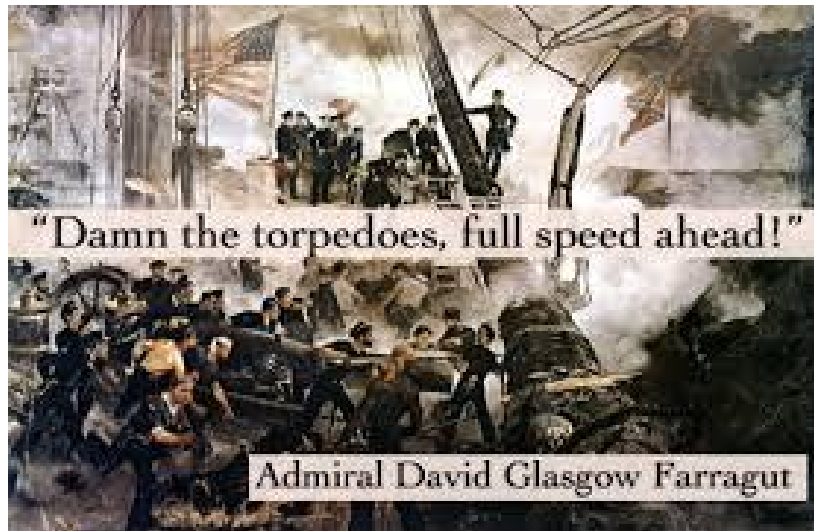


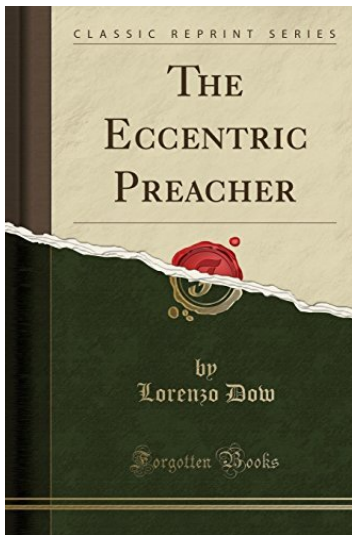
RETIREMENT PLANS THAT “CLEARLY” WORK FOR YOU.



Prizant Group



DAMNED IF YOU DO, DAMNED IF YOU DON'T: Either possible action (or inaction) would result in a negative outcome or cause one trouble; there is no course of action that does not have a drawback.



The Story behind It: American evangelist Lorenzo Dow decided at a very early age to devote his life to teaching the word of God and began preaching at the age of 19. Although his views were similar to those of the Methodists, he was never formally affiliated with them. He roamed on horseback throughout the northern and southern parts of the U.S. Dow's dramatic sermons, eccentric manners, and strange looking clothes made him a frequent topic of conversation. He died in 1834, and in 1836 his written works were edited and published. They included "Reflections on the Love of God," a strong criticism of preachers who supported the doctrine of Particular Election and confused their congregations by pointing out conflicting statements in the Bible. In it Dow chastised"... those who preach it up, to make the Bible clash and contradict itself, by preaching somewhat like this: 'You can and you can't-You shall and you shan't-You will and you won't-And you will be damned if you do-And you will be damned if you don't.' [Damned](#)



Sometimes, "You Just Can't Win For Losing" which is another phrase similar to the above. The baseball manager keeps the pitcher in one batter too long or you take them out too early. The football coach has to decide whether to "Take The Points" with a field goal inside the 10 yard line of "Go For It" and come up empty handed. The Federal Reserve raises rates which is good for seniors on a fixed

income, but bad for borrowers and the stock market. You try and protect your children, but are accused of being a "helicopter parent." You are a loyal employee for umpteen years at your company moving numerous times and they unceremoniously send "walking papers" via the HR department. The state governors issue COVID restrictions to lessen patient pressure on the overburdened hospital system, but the result is a crushing blow to the small business community. Sometimes, we don't know **"Whether to Shit or Go Blind."**



In the real world of investing for retirement, one needn't be back into such quandaries. As Coach Gaines said in "Friday Night Lights" "Clear Eyes, Full Hearts, Can't Lose" [FNL](#)

As long as one sticks to a savings program with annual increases, whether it is Cash, Bonds, Equities or a combination, historically over a 40 year time period; you will be in a good place financially. The true sticking point is that the majority of Americans don't understand the **"Power of Compounding"** and cannot think past their next instant gratification online purchase. So, 401(k) balances may be at an all time high but.....

Steady savings, tax-time contributions, and stock market gains helped lift all balances: Average 401(k) balances hit \$123,900 in the first quarter, up 36% from Q1 2020, while average IRA balances reached \$130,000, up 31% from the same period a year ago, the data show. The average 403(b) balance climbed to \$107,300—42% higher than in Q1 2020.

(www.investopedia.com)

I thought it would be great time to discuss what type of continual income can a retiree expect from their lump sum amount at retirement. Per Personal Capital, [Average](#) the **AVERAGE** 401k balance (let's assume 403(b)/457 are similar) is **\$216,720 for participants of 65+ years**. However, averages can be greatly distorted with very high balances of the super rich. With that in mind, the

MEDIAN for the same age group is **\$64,548**.

(Median: Denoting the middle term of a series arranged in order of magnitude. For example, the median number of the series 55, 62, 76, 85, 93 is 76.)

401(k) Balances

Now, the "Average" balance looks pretty good but the "Median" balance is darn right awful, but not surprising to us who have toiled in the retirement plan trenches over the years. As most are aware (and if you are not, you best **"Get With The Program,"** the overall retirement plan savings rate hovers around **5-7%** in good and bad times. If you tack on a reasonable match or profit sharing contribution of 3%, we end up with around **10%** of annual gross income going towards retirement. So, the unsuspecting retiree receives this lump sum upon exiting said job, and has not a clue what to do with it! Most will look to an annuity that "promises" to provide them with a steady stream of income until it's time to cross the River Styx into immortality. As a pension consultant, I try and explain to participants what you can expect to earn on your retirement lump sum based on historical stock market /bond returns. This short blurb from BTN Research is a real "Wake Up Call" for the financially ignorant masses who think that between Social Security and their paltry retirement savings; they will be living on Easy Street. [Confidence](#)

FUNDING A RETIREMENT - The S&P 500 has averaged +9.6% per year (total return) over the 25 years ending 12/31/20. A lump-sum of \$877,760 (in a pre-tax account) will sustain a 20-year payout of \$100,000 per year (i.e., \$2 million of gross distributions before taxes) assuming the funds continue to earn +9.6% annually¹. This mathematical calculation ignores the ultimate impact of taxes on the account which are due upon withdrawal, is for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to reflect any specific investment or performance. Actual results will fluctuate with market conditions and will vary.(source: BTN Research/6.7.21)

Though I believe in the "Written Word," as a former 5th grade teacher, I understand the power of video as a deliverer of information. So, **WATCH THIS!**

Irrational



Now that I have totally "bummed" everyone out about their finances in their golden years , I came upon this factoid from the Federal Reserve the other day. There is no question in my mind that much of the upheaval in today's American society is due to the massive personal wealth gap. Money is not the answer to all injustices, but it can uplift the cycle of poverty and living "paycheck to paycheck" for the lower 25% of the population, and provide opportunities for their children. Wouldn't it be nice if the wealth could be spread out a little more evenly! [Wouldn't It Be Nice](#)

[THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS](#) - If the total net worth of all Americans (\$136.9 trillion as of 3/31/21) was evenly divided among all households in the nation (125.9 million households as of 3/31/21), then every household in the United States would have been worth \$1.1 million as of 3/31/21 (source: Federal Reserve).

Finally, the constant articles and discussions about "**Work From Home (WFH)**" vs. heading back to the office cubicle is becoming trite. I mean "Pick A Lane" and decide what the hell you want to do with the rest of your life! Corporations are theoretically immortal, so they really don't give a rat's ass whether you stay or go. There will be plenty of willing and able worker bees to take your place. All this talk about quitting brings to mind Johnny Paycheck and his popular song of the 70's "Take This Job and Shove It"

[Shove It!](#)

[Quitting](#)

[NO TURNING BACK](#) - 42% of 1,046 full-time American workers surveyed in early March 2021 said they would quit their jobs if their employer did not allow them to continue to "work from home" permanently and they would seek new employment with a company that does (source: Prudential's Pulse of the American Worker Survey).

We, at [The Prizant Group](#) can wholly sympathize with our working brothers and sisters in their desire to "bend the working curve" towards greater freedom and

prosperity. One of the proven ways to "march to the beat of your own drummer" is to become financially independent. Spending less and saving more is a sure fire way to assist in achieving that goal. We are always available to discuss ways that our retirement plan participants can continue on their chosen financial path. And maybe, just maybe, you can tell your boss to **"Take This Job and Shove It, I Ain't Working Here No More."**

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