



Zanetti Monday Missive 2022.12.30 Last Missive For The Year

Hello Everyone,

Since Monday is a day off, here is the missive a little early.

This one is different. I hope you like it! :>)

Does anyone know why we celebrate the New Year starting in January?

“Well, Greg, yes I do. Julius Caesar reformed the calendar in 45 BC. And it corrected many errors in previous calendars.”

Correct!

But what errors and why?

It all has to do with corruption.

First, historically, republics have an inherent flaw. Republics are subject to bribery and corruption. Republics first fall from within...then from outside enemies. Moral and ethical rot hollow out the institutions meant to protect the nation.

By 53 BC, the Roman Republic's bribery binge was off the charts. Back then, it was common for politicians to borrow money to bribe votes. Lots of money.

Shocking. I know.

Anyway, politically ambitious men were borrowing so much money the lenders knew they could hike interest rates. In the 53 BC election cycle, interest rates doubled (!) because the bribery business was so big.

Hmmmm.

“But that kind of bribery could never happen in America’s Republic, could it?” asked the average American to PACs, lobbyists, special interest groups, and NGOs.

Moving on...

By 50 BC, the Roman people had had it. “Representation for the people” was a joke. The rich were getting fabulously wealthy. The rest? Not so much. Oh, and those rising interest rates were adversely affecting everyone.

Thus, in January of 49 BC, Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon River with his legions, and headed toward Rome. That was treason. **“An army heading toward Rome to overthrow the Senate! That is a direct threat to the Republic!”** cried the politicians.

Meanwhile, the people cheered. As Caesar went from town to town, he and his army were met by cheering crowds. **“Go get ‘em, Julius!”**

The senators weren’t stupid. They knew the people were not with them. The Senate fled to Greece. So what does this have to do with our current calendar? The corruption was so deep in Rome, even High Priests were bribed.

And it was the High Priests who set the calendar.

Thus, if the politicians needed more time to bribe people, they would first bribe the priests to add days to the calendar. That gave the politicians more time to line up their votes before an election.

So, no. They did not delay the election. That was against the law. The priests instead squished additional days into the calendar...but kept “election day” the same.

I know. Crazy.

Therefore, when Caesar crossed the Rubicon in January, it was officially summer in Rome. Really.

And you thought we were the only culture to ever deny objective reality.

Thus, in 45 BC, the new calendar we observe today was implemented.

All because bribery and corruption had gone too far.

Happy New Year Everyone!

Signed, Your If-Your-Grandma-Got-Runover-By-A-Reindeer-You-May-Be-Entitled-To Compensation
Financial Advisor,

Greg

PS Next week we will start a series on gold. I think you'll like it.

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