



# Carpe Diem

*It is better to endure whatever will be, scale back your long hopes. While we speak envious time will have fled. Seize the Day trusting as little as possible in the future.*

— Odes, 1:11 Horace

It seems that we have entered into an era where the carpe diem (seize the day) notion has embodied our society. Greed and ego have taken over our nation and we are paying for the sins of the last 25 years. I have predicted correctly that we should be prepared for the recession that is upon us, but many did not heed the warning. Being right gives me no matter of importance, as many others have been crying out loud to the deaf ears of our country in vain. We have been living well beyond our means for a long time. But is that wrong? No. It is the American dream to fulfill our ambitions of owning our own homes, our own businesses, and raising our families to have the best education possible, to ensure that they too can live the American dream. We all want our children to live a better, easier life than the one that we have had. We want our children to go to better schools, and not have to work as hard as we did. If we set the wrong example of living beyond our means and taking on debt greater than we can handle, they will ultimately pay the greater price. We are a nation of gamblers, taking chances at every possible turn. In no other nation is there such a group of risk takers as the Americans. We believe we should take risks in buying our homes and cars on credit. The banks and insurance companies lend us money based upon a calculated risk that we will be able to pay the debt. Our businesses borrow money

to finance startups and expansions to build towards the future. That fundamental method of borrowing has recently been stymied. For now, the remedy of the government bailout has put a Band-Aid on our problem... we shall see how it will work out.

We are no longer an “Eat, drink and be merry” society, but more of the mindset “*Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die.*” — *Isaiah 22:13*. This leads to the comparative Latin expression *Memento mori*, “Remember that you are mortal.” Hopefully we will learn from our past mistakes and not repeat them. If we do not remember that we are mortal, we will pay the consequences.

We have written about survivors of cancer and their zeal toward rebirth, new life, and a new future. It seems that we need to be shaken at times in order to appreciate the wonderful life and nation that God has blessed us with. If we do not face adversity through health, financial problems, or the death of a loved one, we seem to continue running forward full steam ahead without a care in the world.

We have seen that we can control only certain aspects of life. The critical idea is that we have to try to better manage the aspects of our life that we can control: our health with proper diet and exercise; our home with greater attention and nurturing to our spouse and children; our finances with greater management of our spending; and our spirit with greater control of our attention to our Creator and the beautiful world that He has given us.

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Life is short, and shortly it will end;  
Death comes quickly and respects no one,  
It destroys everything and takes pity on no one.  
To death we are hastening, let us refrain from sinning.  
If you don't turn back and become like a child,  
And change your life for the better,  
You will not be able to enter, blessed, the Kingdom of God.  
To death we are hastening, let us refrain from sinning.

— *Red Book of Montserrat*