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In today's environment, staying informed can easily tip into being overwhelmed. There is a constant stream of market news, analysis, predictions, and new investment products vying for our attention. Headlines often seem more dramatic than ever. Investment newsletters may proclaim "The End is Coming" or urge readers to "Buy Now!" At the same time, major news outlets like CNBC might highlight "Broad Market Decline" even when the S&P 500 is down less than one percent. With inboxes inundated by these messages, I am especially thoughtful about how frequently I send newsletters to clients.

For those interested in real-time updates, timely market news is available through online access under Market Research. However, I offer this perspective: Peter Lynch of the Fidelity Magellan Fund famously advised, "If you spend **13 minutes a year on economics, you've wasted 10 minutes**." His words remind us of the importance of focusing on the long term rather than reacting to every headline.

Depending on how the market performs for the remainder of the month, the first quarter of 2026 could be the first negative quarter for broad market averages since the first quarter of 2025. This may also be the first time in a year that March statements reflect a lower valuation than January, particularly for clients with greater exposure to equity markets. I encourage you to take a long-term view of performance—considering periods of 3, 5, or even 10 years. Market corrections and rebounds are a normal part of investing. Historically, making significant investment changes based solely on geopolitical developments has not been a sound strategy.

I am reminded of March 2021, during the peak of the market's reaction to the Covid pandemic. At that time, a colleague remarked that he wished he could label monthly statements with "Do Not Open Until Christmas." I find myself sharing similar sentiments today. Sometimes, stepping back and allowing time to pass can be the most prudent approach.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Lyn Cameron

"The best ability is availability. When you work with and for the best people in the business and you love what you do, showing up every day is a joy, but more than that, it is a privilege." -Charlie Cameron

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