

Tony's Top Reads

Every few months, I compile a list of articles or videos that had an impact on the way I see the world, think about the future, and relate to others. In Tony's Top Reads, I like to share some of these tasty morsels that brought me clarity, perspective or joy. I stay away from politics and religion, but everything else is fair game!

If you find something of value in this edition of Tony's Top Reads, please forward to someone you care about!

GREAT TED TALK: INSIDE THE MIND OF A MASTER PROCRASTINATOR

This TED talk is one of my favorites! Great for both adults AND children. If I told you that it was about psychology and personal productivity, you'd probably skip this and move on. Tim Urban's self-deprecating delivery of his trouble with procrastination is filled with humor, insight and fun. It's one of the most popular talks from 2016.

5 PAINFULLY OBVIOUS TRUTHS WE TEND TO FORGET IN HARD TIMES

You can read or hear something dozens of times in dozens of different ways before it finally sinks in? The little truths listed in this article fall firmly into that category — timeless life lessons that many of us likely learned years ago, and have been reminded of ever since, yet for whatever reason we tend to forget in the heat of the moment.

I DON'T TRUST THE S&P 500

A new report from Michael Hartnett, chief strategist at Bank of America, points out that just five companies account for 23% of the entire capitalization of the S&P 500. That's up from around 16% at the start of the year. This is, he adds, the highest concert on record, even surpassing the madness of 1999-2000. Those five are the usual suspects: Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook and Google.

FUTURE SHOCKS: 17 TECHNOLOGY PREDICTIONS FOR 2025

It is very exciting to see the pace and transformative potential of today's innovative technologies being applied to solve the world's most pressing problems, such as feeding a global and growing population and improving access to and quality of healthcare. You'll also read about 5G technology, advances in managing cancer and the future impact of artificial intelligence and robotics. The next five years will see profound improvements!

RUNNING ON FAITH: ARE STOCKS DISCOUNTING TOO POWERFUL AN EARNINGS RECOVERY?

Although standard P/E ratios suggest the market is extremely expensive; most valuation metrics that use a "lens" of interest rates/inflation—like the Fed Model and equity risk premium (relative to Treasuries)—suggest the market is inexpensive. There's a great chart in this article that illustrates earnings growth rates (past, present, and future) for the 11 major industry groups in the S&P 500.

CAR-0820-02263

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