



Monthly Perspectives



September 2011

In this edition, we provide guidance for periods of heightened market volatility. We also dissect what Standard & Poor's downgrade of the U.S. credit rating really means. Finally, we share a major announcement regarding Burns Advisory Group's long-term development.

Company Merger Announcement

We are excited to share that on September 30th we will initiate a merger of equals with Executive Financial Group, a respected wealth management firm in Dallas with a client philosophy and mission similar to ours.

The transition will not change the services we provide or have any impact on the team here. You can expect our team will continue to operate as it has in the past, and we will gain a talented and experienced partner capable of bringing greater resources to the firm.

Jerry Georgopoulos, Executive Financial Group's founder, shares our enthusiasm for this partnership and has a likeminded approach to client service and wealth management, so we are grateful for the opportunity to work closely with him over the coming years in our continued pursuit of excellence.

We want to reinforce our commitment to proceed under the same mission that has always governed our work – to provide independent, unbiased, thoughtful recommendations based on our clients' needs and objectives. We deeply appreciate the opportunity to serve our clients and are excited about this evolution of Burns Advisory Group.

The Qualities of an Intelligent Investor

John Burns, CFP®

In terms of real stock market returns, we actually lived through a period worse than the Great Depression. It is important to stress the intensity of the bear market that took place from 2007 to 2009 because, at only three years removed, our proximity to this "perfect storm" provides us both the context to see how the initial recovery has fared and the time to make intelligent decisions for the years to come. » [Read John's full commentary on our website](#)



An American Family Meets Standard & Poor's



Tom McGuigan, CFP®

Earlier this year, I wrote of an American family that earns \$50,000 annually but spends \$80,000. Readers may remember this family is you and me collectively and these figures represent our federal budget, just scaled down, so

you and I can get our arms wrapped around them. The article ended with this thought: "We may debate how to best fix this issue, but we must first all acknowledge the extent of the problem. It is real. It is severe. And, it threatens our future."

Well, the future is here. On August 5, Standard & Poor's, a rating agency, stripped the United States of its AAA credit rating. The reaction has been swift, painful, and, in some cases, thoughtless. » [Read Tom's entire column on our website](#)

Media Highlights

Chief Investment Officer Tim Courtney joined CNBC's Squawk Box on August 5 to offer insight on the heightened volatility permeating financial markets.



» [Watch Tim on CNBC](#)

The Oklahoman

On August 12, Tim Courtney spoke with The Oklahoman's Angi Bruss about how investors should consider navigating turbulent market periods.

» [Watch Tim's Interview with Angi Bruss](#)

» [See more media on our website](#)

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