

Subject Line: **Do you have your seatbelt on?**

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Sovereign Valley Farm, Chile

I got in a pretty nasty wreck a few days ago.

It was a five car pileup in total, plus one 18-wheeler, impacting at about 60 mph (100 kph). So you can probably get a good visual image of the damage.

Thankfully no one was seriously injured.

But I was giving this some thought later as I recounted the details to a friend of mine. He told me, "Wow, you guys were really lucky."

Maybe so. But it wasn't a fluke... because we were also -prepared-.

I had my seatbelt on. I was driving a safe, sturdy vehicle. My brakes were well-maintained. The tires were in good shape.

In short, I had given myself the best possible chances of not only surviving, but walking away unharmed.

It's not like I knew I was going to be in an accident. There was no psychic premonition involved. Wearing a seatbelt just makes sense... no matter what. People get into their cars and they put on their seatbelts; it's pretty much a no-brainer thing to do.

We know there are obvious risks on the road. Maybe we go our entire lives and never get into an accident... yet it still makes sense to wear a seatbelt. And there's practically no downside in doing so.

It's not like some point down the road when you're in your twilight years you'll be thinking, "I wish I hadn't worn my seatbelt all those years..." There's no real 'cost' in wearing a seatbelt.

Yet if the worst happens and you happen find yourself in a collision, it could literally be the thing that saves your life, and those of your loved ones.

In order for this to work, though, you have to put on your seatbelt first. You can't exactly buckle up after an accident occurs.

As I realized later, this is really a great analogy to what's happening in the world today. Just like thousands of cars dangerously throttling down the highway at 60-80 mph, we are not living in a consequence-free environment.

And it's imperative to take common-sense precautions ahead of time in advance of a serious wreck.

When I look at the financial system, I see banks across Europe and North America that are woefully, pitifully capitalized. And they are backed by insurance funds that fail to even meet their legal minimums.

Not to mention, those inadequately capitalized banks and insurance funds are backed by insolvent governments and nearly insolvent central banks.

These governments have all borrowed so much money that they must borrow more money just to pay interest on the money they've already borrowed.

Just like the idiot at the front of the column texting on his mobile phone while drinking his Starbucks and weaving in and out of traffic, this entire system is a major wreck waiting to happen.

The question is-- are you wearing your seatbelt?

I invite you to explore this topic further in this week's Sovereign Man Podcast.

This may be the most personal piece I've ever done, and I really encourage you to spend some time with me this weekend to understand what's happening in the world, and the common sense approaches to doing something about it.

You can download the podcast here:

<http://www.sovereignman.com/podcast/006-are-you-wearing-your-seat-belt-14256/>

Or in the iTunes store:

<https://itunes.apple.com/podcast/sovereign-man/id842764173>

Have a great weekend,

Simon Black