Christmas Is Not An Emergency

Realization Project
July 15, 2019
WHAT POWERS THE U.S. ECONOMY?

FIRST IT WAS AGRICULTURE...

# of farms in America increased steadily from 1619 until 1910
1860: 2 million farms
1905: 6 million farms
WHAT POWERS THE U.S. ECONOMY?

THEN IT WAS MANUFACTURING....

Power Loom (1784)  
Locomotive Steam Engine (1763)  
Assembly Line (1901)
WHAT POWERS THE U.S. ECONOMY?

TODAY, IT’S CONSUMER SPENDING:
Things that households buy to fulfill wants and needs
So, what’s the problem?

Nearly 25% of Americans are going into debt trying to pay for necessities like food

Megan Leonhardt | @Megan_Leonhardt
9:00 AM ET Fri, 24 May 2019
CNBC.com

63% Of Americans Don't Have Enough Savings To Cover A $500 Emergency

Maggie McGrath | Forbes Staff
Investing

FAMILIES GO DEEP IN DEBT TO STAY IN THE MIDDLE CLASS

Submitted by corinna on Fri, 08/02/2019 - 07:20
Date:
Friday, August 2, 2019
Link:
https://www.wsj.com/articles/families-go-deep-in-debt-to-stay-in-the-middle-class...

Americans are more in debt than ever — experts say 'money disorders' may be to blame

Kate Sprague
Robert Exley Jr.
Published 1:19 PM ET Fri, 16 Aug 2019
If consumers ain’t got it...

Stores can’t get it...

Retail apocalypse?
JCPenney, Payless, LifeWay announce 3,000+ combined store closures

“In the post-digital era, only the strong will survive. Darwin would love this,” said one retail analyst.

Gap, Tesla and Victoria’s Secret are among the nearly 5,000 store closings already in 2019
And as consumer spending slows....

Nearly 25% of Americans are going into debt trying to pay for necessities like food

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Proverbs 22:6-7

Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

The rich rule over the poor,
and the borrower is slave to the lender.
GOOD NEWS!

You have plenty of time to prepare for Christmas, and 4 ways to make it most meaningful:

1. Mindfully Spend Money (Budget)
2. Anticipate Economic Uncertainties
3. Remember the Point of Christmas
4. Create More, Consume Less
1. **Spend Money Mindfully**

Reasons for mindless spending include:

- Boredom
- "I deserve a treat"
- "It's a bargain"
- It’ll make me feel better
- I need/want it
**Anticipate Economic Uncertainties**

**Insiders are selling stock like it's 2007**

By Matt Egan, CNN Business

Updated 9:56 AM EDT, Tue August 27, 2019

**Recession fears rise for middle-class families**

Jessica Dickler | @jdickler

Published 9:01 AM ET Tue, 16 July 2019

CNBC.com

- Middle-class Americans are less optimistic about their economic prospects than they were just six months ago, according to a new report.

- "This should be a wake-up call to families to start shoring up their finances now," says Steven Rick, chief economist at CUNA Mutual Group.
Remember the Nativity

Why do you buy Christmas presents?

What is your favorite part about Christmas?

How can you radically observe Christmas this year?
Create More, Consume Less

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

John 14:12-14