

Pearls of Wisdom

On Personal Responsibility -

Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not - nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not - unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not - the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. - Calvin Coolidge

Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other one thing. - Abraham Lincoln

When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better. - Albert Einstein

Everyone can rise above their circumstances and achieve success if they are dedicated to and passionate about what they do. - Nelson Mandela

As my sufferings mounted I soon realized that there were two ways in which I could respond to my situation -- either to react with bitterness or seek to transform the suffering into a creative force. I decided to follow the latter course. - Martin Luther King Jr.

You were not born a winner, and you were not born a loser. You are what you make yourself be. - Lou Holtz

It's hard to beat a person who never gives up. - Babe Ruth

Achievement is largely the product of steadily raising one's levels of aspiration and expectation. - Jack Nicklaus

People who are unable to motivate themselves must be content with mediocrity, no matter how impressive their other talents. - Andrew Carnegie

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. - Anne Frank

Hope never abandons you, you abandon it. - George Weinberg

I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody. - Lily Tomlin

Don't expect to improve the weak by tearing down the strong. - Calvin Coolidge

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves. - The Rev. William John Henry Boetcker

Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there. - Will Rogers

On Government and Debt -

The best government is that which governs least. - Thomas Jefferson

We are a nation that has a government - not the other way around. And this makes us special among the nations of the Earth. Our government has no power except that granted it by the people. It is time to check and reverse the growth of government which shows sign of having grown beyond the consent of the governed. - Ronald Reagan

Good intentions will always be pleaded for every assumption of authority. It is hardly too strong to say that the Constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions. There are men in all ages who meant to govern well, but they mean to govern. They promise to be good masters, but they mean to be masters. - Noah Webster

There is no nation on earth powerful enough to accomplish our overthrow. Or destruction, should it come at all, will be from the inattention of the people to the concerns of their government.
- Daniel Webster

There is no "slippery slope" toward loss of liberties, only a long staircase where each step downward must first be tolerated by the American people and their leaders. - Alan K. Simpson

The Constitution is NOT an instrument for the government to restrain the people; it is an instrument for the people to restrain the government, lest it come to dominate our lives and interests.
- Patrick Henry

Government's first duty is to protect the people, not to run their lives. - Ronald Reagan

We have a system that increasingly taxes work and subsidizes non-work. - Milton Friedman

There is far more danger in public than private monopoly, for when government goes into business it can always shift its losses to the taxpayer. Government never makes ends meet, and that is the first requisite of business. - Thomas Edison

There are two ways to conquer and enslave a country. One is by the sword. The other is by debt.
- Jon Adams

I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them. -Thomas Jefferson

I, however, place economy among the first and most important of republican virtues, and public debt as the greatest of dangers to be feared. - Thomas Jefferson

Think what you do when you run in debt - you give to another the power over your liberty.

- Benjamin Franklin

Democracy extends the sphere of individual freedom, socialism restricts it. Democracy attaches all possible value to each man; socialism makes each man a mere agent, a mere number. Democracy and socialism have nothing in common but one word: equality. But notice the difference: while democracy seeks equality in liberty, socialism seeks equality in restraint and servitude.

- Alexis de Tocqueville

The health of a democratic society may be measured by the quality of functions performed by private citizens. - Alexis de Tocqueville

America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves. - Abraham Lincoln

I wish it were possible to obtain a single amendment to our constitution; I would be willing to depend on that alone for the reduction of the administration of our government to the genuine principles of its constitution; I mean an additional article taking from the federal government the power of borrowing. - Thomas Jefferson

Avoid likewise the accumulation of debt, not only by shunning occasions of expense, but [also] by vigorous exertions in time of peace to discharge the debts which unavoidable wars have occasioned, not ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burden which we ourselves ought to bear.

- George Washington

Let every man, every corporation and especially let every village, town and city, every county and State, get out of debt and keep out of debt. It is the debtor that is ruined by hard times.

- Rutherford B. Hayes

We don't have a [multi-] trillion-dollar debt because we haven't taxed enough. We have a [multi-] trillion-dollar debt because we spend too much. - Ronald Reagan

We contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle. - Winston Churchill

The problem with Socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money.

- Margaret Thatcher

Other Quotes -

And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country. - John F. Kennedy

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.

- Ronald Reagan

The people of these United States are the rightful masters of both Congresses and courts, not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution.

- Abraham Lincoln

The States are separate and independent sovereigns. Sometimes they need to act like it.

- Chief Justice John Roberts

Never do anything against conscience even if the state demands it. - Albert Einstein

The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard. - Gaylord Nelson

Right is right, even if everyone is against it, and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it.

- William Penn

[Our message to the 435 members of the House of Representatives and 100 US Senators - - Stealing from our children and grandchildren is morally wrong.]

Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters. - Margaret Wheatley

You need only reflect that one of the best ways to get yourself a reputation as a dangerous citizen these days is to go about repeating the very phrases which our founding fathers used in the great struggle for independence. - Charles Austin Beard

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. - Nelson Mandela

Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. - George Santayana

Live as if you were going to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were going to live forever.

- Mahatma Gandhi

In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock.

- Thomas Jefferson

I have never understood why it is "greed" to want to keep the money you've earned, but not greed to want to take somebody else's money. - Thomas Sowell

And then some more -

The nine most terrifying words in the English language are "I'm from the government, and I'm here to help." - Ronald Reagan

If you put our federal government in charge of the Sahara Desert, in five years there would be a shortage of sand. - Milton Friedman

Blessed are the young, for they shall inherit the national debt. - Herbert Hoover

Government is like a baby. An alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other. - Ronald Reagan

There are 249 millionaires in Congress. Remember a couple of years ago when this new Congress told us they had the solution to the recession? Apparently, they didn't share it with the rest of us. - Jay Leno

Yesterday Obama presented a \$4 trillion budget that he says would help the middle class. Then the middle class said, "You know what? How about you just give us the \$4 trillion? We'll figure out what to do with it." - Jimmy Fallon

We're learning more about the dead Venezuelan dictator Hugo Chavez. It seems he amassed about \$2 billion in personal fortune while president, and he was a socialist. Just imagine how rich he could have been if he didn't believe in redistribution of wealth. - Jay Leno

If Patrick Henry thought that taxation without representation was bad, he should see how bad it is with representation. - Farmer's Almanac

I wouldn't mind paying taxes - if I knew they were going to a friendly country. - Dick Gregory

Income tax returns are the most imaginative fiction being written today. - Herman Wouk

The income tax has made more liars out of the American people than golf has. - Will Rogers

The taxpayer - that's someone who works for the federal government but doesn't have to take the civil service examination. - Ronald Reagan

A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.
- George Bernard Shaw

Any man who thinks he can be happy and prosperous by letting the Government take care of him, better take a closer look at the American Indian. - Henry Ford

We have to pass the Healthcare bill so that you can find out what is in it. - Nancy Pelosi