



**Important Lessons
From The
Goldline Mess**

*Key Points of Which to Be
Aware When Buying Gold*

By James L. Paris &
Robert G. Yetman, Jr.

Anyone who casts even a casual eye or ear to the realm of precious metals is no doubt familiar with the Goldline fiasco. If not, here's a brief rundown. Goldline, which, through its high-profile advertising campaigns held through such notable conservative talk show personalities as Glenn Beck, Laura Ingraham, and Mark Levin, to name just a few, makes its money principally as a retail seller of precious metals coins, has been in some pretty hot water for a while now over its sales practices. As a matter of fact, Goldline, in exchange for a dismissal of several criminal charges, has agreed to refund millions of dollars to customers in relation to the accusations of deceptive sales practices that served as the bases for the charges in the first place, as

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TSA Thefts Remain Rampant

*Those Charged with Protecting
Us Continue to Rob Us*

By Robert G. Yetman, Jr.

What else should we expect from government agents?

In the latest in a long line of what should be ridiculously-embarrassing incidents for the Transportation Security Administration, 31-year-old TSA agent Alexandra Schmid was recently arrested on a charge of grand larceny after it was alleged she stole \$5,000 in cash from a passenger who was in the process of going through a routine security checkpoint. Video of the February 1 incident apparently shows Schmid taking the money from the passenger's jacket pocket as it traveled along the x-ray conveyor belt that we who fly regularly know all too well.

As noted above, this is by no means the first time anything like this has happened – far from it. The list of misdeeds by TSA agents has been growing for a long while now. Here's a sample of only very recent and troubling theft events on the part of TSA employees:

- In January, an agent whose job it was to search through checked luggage at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport was suspended after he was found to be in possession of an iPad that "mysteriously" went missing from a passenger's baggage.

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TSA Thefts (Cont. from page 1)

- Also in January, two former agents who worked at JFK were sentenced to jail after having been found guilty of stealing \$40,000 from a passenger's luggage in 2011.
- *Again* in January, a former agent pleaded guilty to stealing a watch valued at \$15,000 from a passenger's piece of luggage at Los Angeles International Airport.

The further back you go, the more the established transgressions pile up; these are just some samples of some of the higher-profile misdeeds from within the previous couple of months.

Factor in these explicit examples of lawlessness with the "legal" violations against personal liberty that have been carried out at the behest of the government by the agents of the TSA, and you can only conclude that the TSA is not your friend, not your ally, but instead, an organization to be feared and from which you should diligently protect yourself whenever you're in the position of having to encounter it in the course of your travels.

While we all know that we are, to some degree, at the TSA's mercy when we want to travel, there are things you can and should do to keep yourself protected from the "protectors:"

First and foremost, do not travel with any more valuables than you absolutely must. Under no circumstances should you keep any

high-dollar items in your checked luggage. If you must transport expensive goods to your destination, make arrangements to have it shipped via a reputable delivery service like FedEx, and be sure you have the appropriate amount of insurance in place.

As for carry-on baggage, keep that free from any expensive extras that you don't really need to have with you. That's a good idea anyway, but especially now in consideration of "your" TSA's demonstrated intrusiveness and alarming record of thefts.

Do not allow the "traffic" that sometimes piles up at the receiving end of the x-ray machine conveyor belt to distract you from watching your bags and other belongings as they move on it. Speaking for myself, I always make sure to have every bit of metal off of my person before I go through the walk-through detector so that there is basically no chance I will set it off. By doing this, I can watch my things on the conveyor belt up to the point where they go "inside" the x-ray machine, walk straight through the detector with no problems or delays, and then immediately position myself at the other end of the conveyor before my bag has made an exit out from the other side of the scanner.

While these tips do not protect you from the "lawful" invasions of privacy that are now routine when traveling by air or via any other method that requires the scrutiny of the TSA, by traveling more lightly, you will give these people less of a reason to show much interest in you and your belongings.

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well as set aside additional funds on behalf of future claims.

While Goldline may be the best-known gold coin retailer right now, they are not the only ones, which means they are not the only ones who are doing the things of which they're accused. Shady sales practices are all-too-common in the realm of precious metals coin transactions, but that's only one of the problems with entering into this marketplace.

Important Things to Remember When Shopping for Gold

The first thing you have to be sure about is why you're in the market for precious metals at the outset. If you're seeking to own specific collectible coins as a numismatist, that's one thing, but most of the people we know who want to own precious metals are interested in them for their investment value, and if investment value is what you want, you want to stay away from collectible coins. When buying precious metals as a hedge against economic difficulties, you want the value of what you own to be tied exclusively to the value of the raw metal; collectible coins are graded, and a significant portion of graded coins' value is tied to their value as unique, minted pieces. That's generally not what you want.

One of the biggest problems in accumulating your precious metals in the form of graded pieces has to do with the premiums...often around 30%...you'll pay to do so. Even if the markups your dealer will earn from you are generally in line with what other dealers are charging for the same pieces, the reality is that they are all, generally, very high. It's not unlike the real estate industry in this way, where every so-called full-service brokerage

charges 6% to sell your house; the 6% you pay may be in line with other brokerages are charging, but that doesn't meet that 6%, on its face, isn't inherently exorbitant.

The illiquidity of the collectible coin market is another problem, and is one that exacerbates the markup issue. Collectible coins are generally considered illiquid because, unlike bullion, the person who will buy from you will have to be someone who wants the specific, minted pieces you have, and that's not always easy to find. So, not only is the "simple" matter of dumping your pieces not so simple, but when you consider the premium you paid to buy it in the first place, your financial "kick in the teeth" becomes even more painful.

Aggravating the overall problem is the persistent issue of "bait and switch," something that remains rampant in the numismatic coin industry. This is an alleged sales practice that represented one of the cornerstones of the complaints against Goldline. In retail precious metals sales, the bait and switch usually works like this: a customer interested in buying bullion (yes, Goldline and the others also sell bullion, but the markups are very small, so they prefer you buy something else) will contact a dealer for that purpose, only to have the dealer rep. pressure them into buying the graded coins instead, usually convincing them on the basis that the graded coins are particularly "rare." The markup on the graded coins is so huge, and the liquidity so small, that coin investors most usually find themselves on the losing end of their investment.

It's also important that we debunk one of the other key arguments used by dealers to per-

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The Jim Paris Perspective

Notes and Thoughts on the Realization of Bible Prophecy in the Current Day

Bible Prophecy Takes Hold In Pop Culture

This has been a very interesting month for us here at the *Jim Paris Bible Prophecy & Survival Report*. In the beginning of March we published a mini documentary on YouTube covering the phenomenon of the strange trumpet-like sounds that people are hearing worldwide. We have had more than 9,000 views of the video in just the first two weeks. Just a couple of days ago we received a call from the 'Darkness On The Edge Of Town' paranormal radio show. They asked me to appear to discuss my upcoming book 'Selling The Mark Of The Beast.' This appearance has also been turned into a YouTube video, as well. For those that would like to follow us on YouTube, our channel is 'JamesParis54.' We have big plans for online video this year with hopes of using this technology to stay up to the minute on how news events relate to Bible prophecy and survival.

As I continue to see interest growing for all things *Bible prophecy*, it serves as yet another confirmation that exciting days are ahead. When a radio show that typically has guests on that claim they can talk to the dead, psychics, and ghost hunters then wants to interview me about the Bible, that tells me that we are living in truly unique times.

The Latest On Syria

We continue to follow closely the events in Syria and how they may relate to Isaiah 17. The Bible tells us that Damascus, the capital of Syria, will become a 'ruinous heap' and uninhabitable. Many writers on Bible prophecy believe that Damascus could be wiped out by a nuclear bomb. We don't know exactly how Damascus will become a site of desolation and destruction, but the events taking place there now are very interesting.

With Damascus serving as 'terrorist central', some have speculated that a nuclear bomb or so-called 'dirty bomb' could even be triggered accidentally. Others believe that Israel will make a nuclear strike. We don't know precisely how this will happen, but we see Syria and Damascus on the world stage at the moment. In fact, just yesterday, while watching the news, I heard the anchor make the comment that Damascus is now, for the first time, the center of the fighting in the year-long Syrian civil war. For those not following the conflict closely, most of the battles have been fought in outlying areas. Now, anti-Assad forces have brought the battle to the nation's capital of Syria for what appears to be a final showdown.

As the United Nations continues to attempt to intervene in the bloody civil war, their proposed actions are being rebuffed repeatedly by China and Russia. We learned just a couple of days ago that Russian special forces have landed in Syria. While we don't know what role Russia will play militarily, it appears that, at a minimum, they will be supplying armaments and on-the-ground reconnaissance to the Assad regime.

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Considering that Damascus is one of the oldest, continually inhabited cities in the world, it is again amazing to see how its predicted destruction appears to be happening before our eyes. We also now see the determination of Russia to play a significant role in shaping the Middle East. Of course, Russia will one day lead a multi-nation force in an attack on Israel (Ezekiel 38 war). We consider the insertion of Russian forces in the Syrian civil war a significant development.

Sweden To Officially Become A Cashless Society?

Sweden was the first county to create bank notes in 1661; now they are going cashless? Even churches in Sweden are taking their offerings with credit cards. Many businesses no longer accept cash and the government there seems to be signaling that the days of physical currency may be numbered. One interesting thing to note is how the 'benefits' of becoming a cashless society are already starting to be enumerated. For example, one article this week pointed out a marked decrease in crime in Sweden as cash has been squeezed out of the economy. In my upcoming book, 'Selling The Mark Of The Beast,' I outline how the Mark will be sold with a long list of benefits. Chief among these benefits will be a reduction in crime, money laundering, and many other shadowy underground segments of our 'cash' economy.

PayPal Leading The Way In Cashless Transactions

Just this past week I made note of the fact that the new PayPal-Home Depot cashless system is now available where I live near Daytona Beach, FL. If I told you just ten years ago that you could walk into a retail store without any cash or identification and make hundreds or even thousands of dollars of purchases by typing in fourteen numbers into a computer, you would have likely laughed at me. This is the reality of the new PayPal cashless checkout.

PayPal, known for several years as the leader in online transactions, is now staking its claim in the bricks and mortar world. Home Depot is the first major retailer to join this new program, but it is expected to spread like wildfire.

What Does The Bible Really Say About A Cashless Society?

You may be surprised to learn that the Bible does not make any direct reference to a cashless society. Bible prophecy scholars are broadly in consensus, however, that we will in fact see a cashless monetary system during the tribulation. This is based on a logical extrapolation of Revelation 13. When we understand that no one will be able to buy or sell without the Mark Of The Beast, we realize that this type of control can only happen within a centrally-controlled cashless system. What we see in Revelation 13 is the use of money to control the masses. What is especially illuminating is to imagine how the writer of the book of Revelation was able to envision this 2,000 years ago!

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The Jim Paris Perspective *(Cont. from page 5)*

On a recent radio show appearance I used the analogy of the IRS. As a financial planner I have heard countless stories of the IRS garnishing wages, levying bank accounts, etc. Imagine someone with even more power over your money than the IRS. He is the Antichrist, and he will have the ability to completely cut you off from the financial system.

Julian Assange, the founder of Wikileaks, found out what can happen if you cross the wrong people. Within a matter of weeks his bank accounts were frozen and he was not even able to accept donations through PayPal. This type of financial control is child's play compared to the grip the one-world government and the Antichrist will have over each individual's finances.

Why Should Christians Care About The Mark Of The Beast?

I receive a regular stream of e mails from Christians asking me why we should even care about the Mark Of The Beast. After all, won't all Christians already be raptured before the Mark is introduced? First, while I am definitely among the pre-tribulation crowd, we can't know 100% for sure when the rapture will take place. I find it quite presumptuous that modern-day Christians believe that we are exempt from the persecution that has been visited upon generations of believers that have come before us. Even those prophecy experts with a pre-tribulation view caution that we can't know for sure that we will be gone by the beginning of the tribulation.

A second consideration, and perhaps the stronger of my two points, is that this cashless technology will likely be transitioned into our lives before the tribulation. This means that in the early stages of what may later become the Mark Of The Beast, we may have to deal with what me might call The Mark Of The Beast 1.0. That is to say, just as Wikileaks could quickly be brought to its knees, those same forces may be used to silence Christians and conservatives.

Why The Government Will Begin To Regulate Internet Speech

Glenn Beck was opining on his radio show this morning that the only way the government can keep a tight-fisted control over the masses is to begin to regulate Internet content. Beck, who parted ways with Fox News last year, now broadcasts his TV show daily over the Internet and more than 300,000 subscribers pay \$9.95 monthly to watch. The centralization of power in the media has all but evaporated. When broadcasters like Glenn Beck and Alex Jones can reach millions with their populist message and the government has no way to moderate them, you can start counting down the days to when the FCC or other agency will decide that this is simply too much freedom for our own 'good.' Although SOPA was defeated, look for a resurgence of legislation designed to control the Internet.



James L. Paris
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Lessons From Goldline (Cont. from page 3)

suade you to buy coins instead of bullion: that coins would be exempt from any prospective orders of a confiscation of gold from the citizenry. The basis of this argument lies in President Roosevelt's confiscation order issued in the 1930's in concert with the dropping of the gold standard and devaluing the dollar. As a part of the order, coins that were rare and unusual were exempt. However, not only is it the truth that no gold was ever forcibly confiscated under the order, but the coins you would buy today would hardly meet the standard of being both rare and unusual, so they would not be exempt under the terms of a similar order, anyway.

In the end, unless you are specifically a precious metals coin collector, with the requisite expertise to transact in that market without worry, what you are seeking is bullion. There is a number of perfectly reputable bullion dealers out there, and a little "due diligence" will help you to find them. As an alternative, if you are interested in maintaining an interest in the price of precious metals without owning the physical product, you might consider precious metals exchange-traded funds, or ETFs. These are stock market-based investments that are backed by physical precious metals (as opposed to being comprised of precious metals mining stocks or other such derivative securities). Two of the more popular ETFs in this realm include the SPDR Gold Shares (Symbol: GLD) and the iShares Silver Trust (Symbol: SLV). Again, though, it's important to note that the shares of these ETFs are *backed* by the physical precious metals, and do not con-

stitute direct ownership of the metals themselves.

Regardless of how you approach taking a position in the precious metals markets, always be sure to do the requisite research before making any transactions, and be sure to consult with a qualified, financial professional as a part of that research.

Thinking About Living Elsewhere?

We often receive questions from readers and site visitors about the idea of relocating from the U.S. to another country. We certainly understand the reason for the question, but one must consider the wealth of variables to be considered: personal taste, cost of living, safety, general viability, and a bunch more. For example, there are plenty of places in Central and South America where Americans can live like kings on very little, but where crime and standard of living are real issues. There are other nations, like Switzerland, with very high standards of living and a historical dedication to liberty but which are, unfortunately, very expensive places to live.

One site that we really like on this subject and we suggest you visit is Sovereign Man (www.sovereignman.com), which is run by an interesting fellow by the name of Simon Black. Black is a dedicated libertarian, so much so that he has become rather the real-life expert on the subject of how to effectively live and work from a variety of places around the world. Go ahead and check him out.

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Financial Roundup

By Robert G. Yetman, Jr.

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Emerging Markets Look to Be a Good Consideration Currently

Emerging markets, which took a bit of a pounding in 2011, are once again looking to be a good place to be for forward-looking investors. While there is not a great deal of present activity that suggests anyone who doesn't hop aboard now will be left at the station, the astute investor knows that trading in such a manner anyway can often be fruitless. The bottom line is that the long-term potential of investing in less mature economies is once again becoming more apparent.

The difference between the struggles that emerging markets countries have seen recently, vs. the struggles that we've seen in First World nations, is that the emerging markets regimes are not saddled with crushing debt and the internal *dis*-unification on how to deal with that debt that provides no easy answers. Emerging markets remain a good, longer-term play because of the very characteristics that make them emerging markets: populations that have only recently achieved the means, need, and desire to accumulate goods and services on a macro scale, as well as a defined, cohesive motivation for total economic progress on behalf of the governments and their respective citizenries.

The attached charts (charts courtesy of StockCharts.com) give a great look at the weak price action of the emerging markets (as proxied by the Vanguard MSCI Emerging Markets ETF) throughout most of 2011, as well as the noticeable rebound seen thus far in 2012.



Emerging markets activity during calendar year 2011 (above), as well as thus far in 2012 (below).



The increase in emerging markets equities so far this year has been about double the positive movement of the S&P 500, and comes on the heels of emerging markets' drop of about 20% in 2011. It's a good time to consider greater portfolio exposure to this area, but remember that there's generally a higher level of shorter-term volatility that comes with "younger" markets, so be prepared for that if you want to make the move.