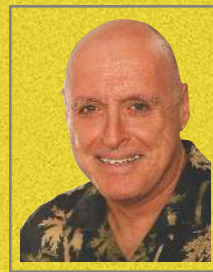


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



706 2021 is Lurking – What About That?

A British philosopher's statement rocked me back on my heels this week. I'm Jerry Roberts and I'll tell you why, next, on The Extra Point.

I wasn't familiar with the name, Alain de Botton, until a couple of days ago. He's a British philosopher and author of numerous books, now aged 51, and he said *"Anyone who isn't embarrassed of who they were last year probably isn't learning enough."*

One more time. *"Anyone who isn't embarrassed of who they were last year probably isn't learning enough."* At the same time, I was getting emails from people trying to sell programs on how to set and achieve goals in 2021. So, I sat back and let his statement percolate a little, while I began scribbling down some things I think I'd like to think about doing next year.

Before I get started, a number of people may be thinking, "Are you serious? Covid. People are out of work. Nothing is certain. How can anybody even think about next year — hello?"

Yes, we have Covid to think about, and rebuilding an economy. We also have to be aware that a lot of people are making plans to do impressive things in 2021. The first question is, shouldn't we, you and I, be among them?

Back to Botton's question. This year hasn't been the year I expected. I had plans. Some very good plans, and I was ready to grow my business. Well, big chunks of what I had planned didn't happen. Some of it did, but so much has gone to the back burner, for whenever.

One thing that did happen was I finally started training online. I had tinkered with it for two years, and the virus left me with no choice. Either learn how to do it and do it well, or be out of business. I dug into the software and practiced. It took a couple of months to get it working, but I can now deliver any training course I've created, to any group, anywhere.

Still, Botton's statement. I'm guessing he wrote those words before the Covid situation, but they are words that will live on for as long as people do.

I need to learn more if I'm going to be valuable to my clients next year. I'll need to learn more in 2021 to do the same in 2022. I read a lot, and that now includes hearing from new voices, with new ideas, or new takes on old ideas.

One thing to keep in mind is that, whatever you and I did or didn't do in 2020, and whatever our reasons may have been, we've got a new year coming that renews our chance to move forward. We're a little more than a month away from turning the calendar past a year none of us will ever forget, to a year we hope we can say the same about — but for far different and better reasons.

Covid will still be with us, but we don't know for how long. There are promising developments for therapeutics to help people avoid the most severe consequences of the virus, even if the vaccines don't pan out in our favor. We can have hope that things turn around for us sooner, rather than later.

All that said and even if Covid remains a factor longer than we expect, we need to decide who we will be at this time next year, what we will learn, and the growth we will achieve. What will we be able to say, a year from now, on how we faced up to 2021, with commitment and intention?

That's The Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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