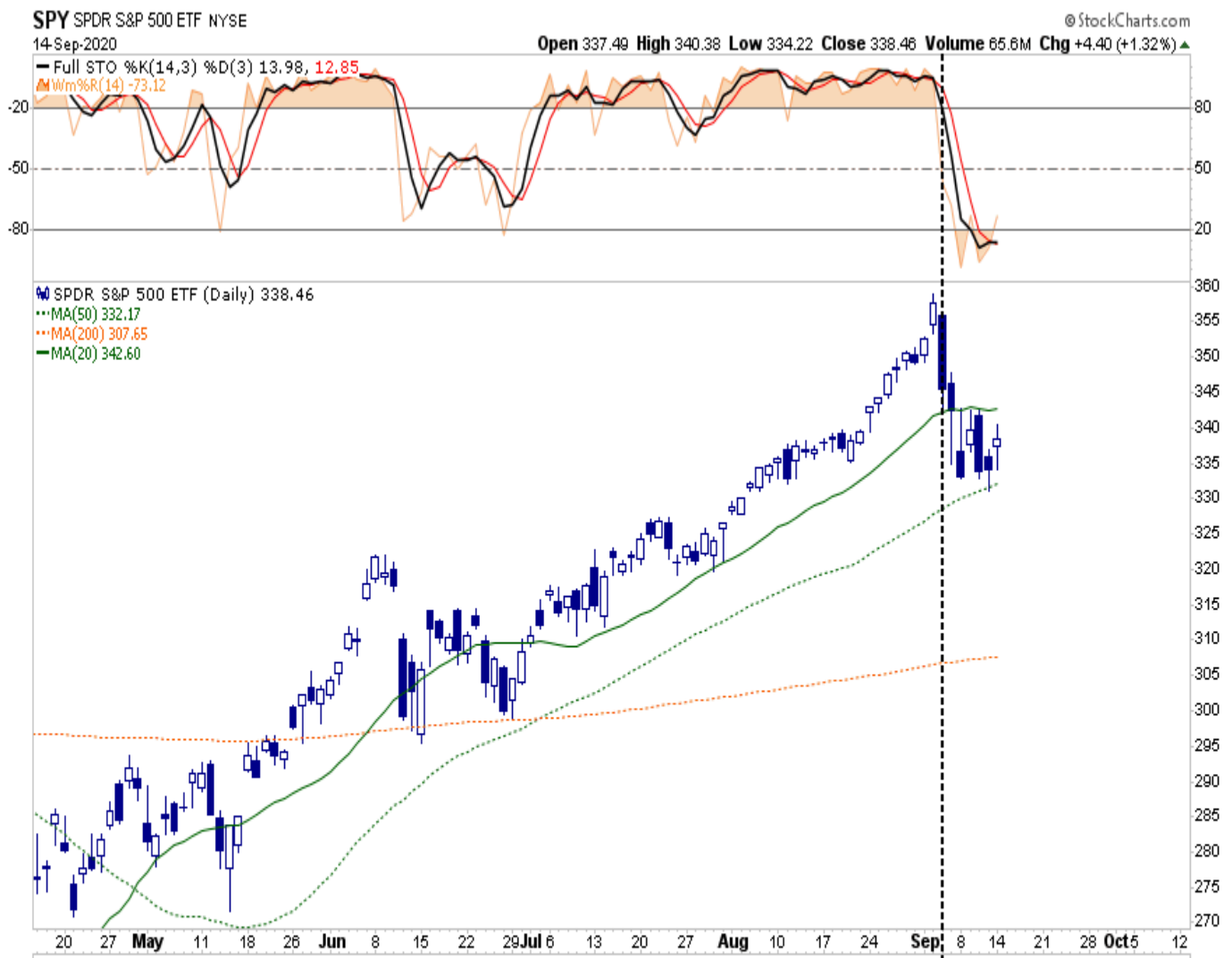


Is everything "priced in?" Investors have gone "all in" with a disregard for caution. But with markets extended and overvalued what should investors do now? As discussed in this past weekend's newsletter, [investors got even more speculative](#) during the recent correction, which is the opposite of what you would expect. But if markets anticipate "good news," then are there any "surprises" left? In other words, if markets have priced in perfection, then there is not a lot of room for "disappointment." Such was a point I made this morning on [Twitter](#): <https://twitter.com/LanceRoberts/status/1305460162187145216?s=20> As we have discussed previously, "market momentum" is a hard thing to kill. Such is particularly the case when the "Fear Of Missing Out" overrides logic. In this past weekend's missive, we laid out the case for a "sellable rally." To wit:

"You can see the failure of the market at the 20-dma and the support at the 50-dma. What is essential are the upper and lower indicators.

1. **Both of the upper indicators are currently registering short-term oversold conditions, suggestive of at least a reflexive bounce next week.**
2. **Conversely, both of the lower ?sell signals? have been triggered, and as noted in the video, it suggests there is additional selling pressure on stocks currently."**

Chart updated through Monday's close:



Lot's Of Risks To The Bullish Outlook

While we used the sell-off to add some holdings to our portfolios, we remain cautious for several reasons.

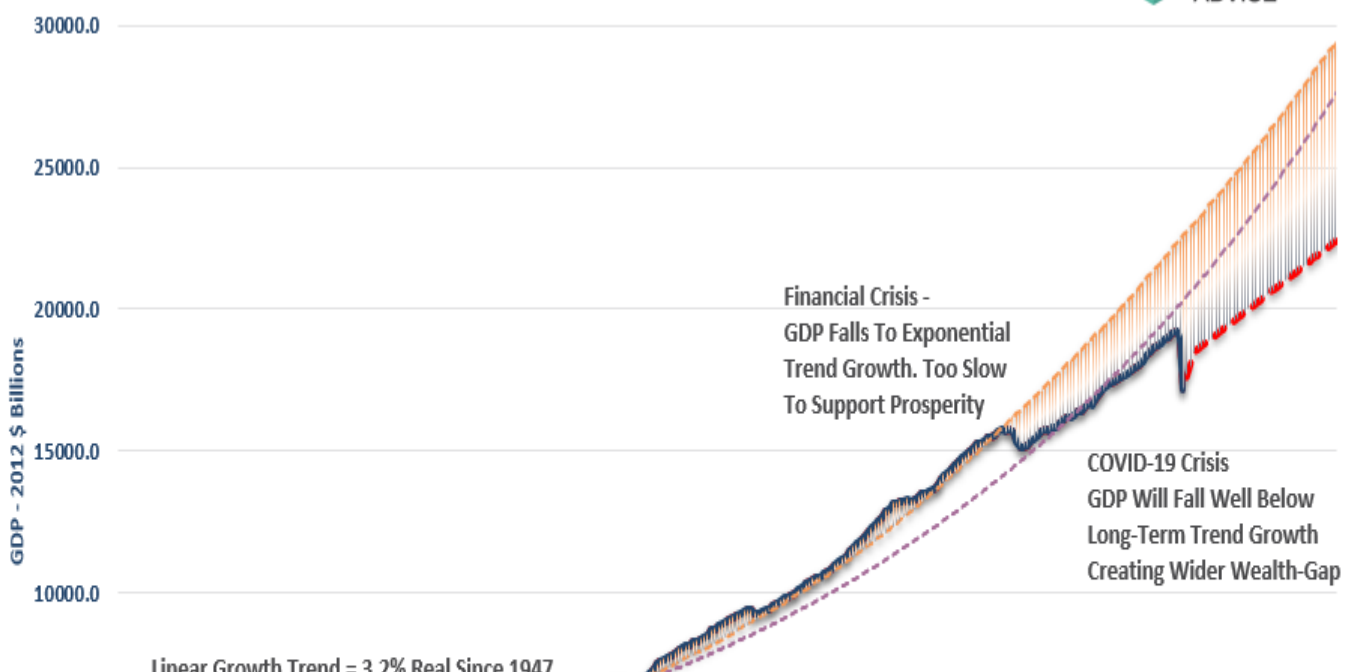
1. *The market has fully priced in whatever economic recovery we are likely to see near-term.*•
2. *There is clear evidence of weakening economic data and slower earnings growth.*
3. *Investors are counting on a "vaccine" to restore the economy to its previous strength fully.*•
4. *The markets have entirely discounted the potential for an election "event."*•
5. *Market participants have discounted the need the additional stimulus to sustain economic growth and recovery.*•
6. *The Fed is on the sidelines for now. Without additional Treasury issuance, the Fed has less ability to provide additional liquidity to the market.*•
7. *While the economy is indeed recovering, along with employment, it will still likely fall well short of pre-pandemic levels stifling future earnings growth and revenues.*
8. *Investors are paying exceedingly high valuations based on a full earnings recovery, which is unlikely to be the case.*

Sluggish Growth

The problem, as discussed in ["Insanely Stupid,"](#) the ability for stocks to continue to grow earnings at a rate to support such high valuations is problematic. Such is due to rising debts and deficits, which will retard economic growth in the future. To wit:

Before the Financial Crisis, the economy had a linear growth trend of real GDP of 3.2%. Following the 2008 recession, the growth rate dropped to the exponential growth trend of roughly 2.2%. Instead of reducing the debt problems, unproductive debt, and leverage increased. The COVID-19 crisis led to a debt surge to new highs. Such will result in a retardation of economic growth to 1.5% or less.•

Real GDP vs Linear & Exponential Trends



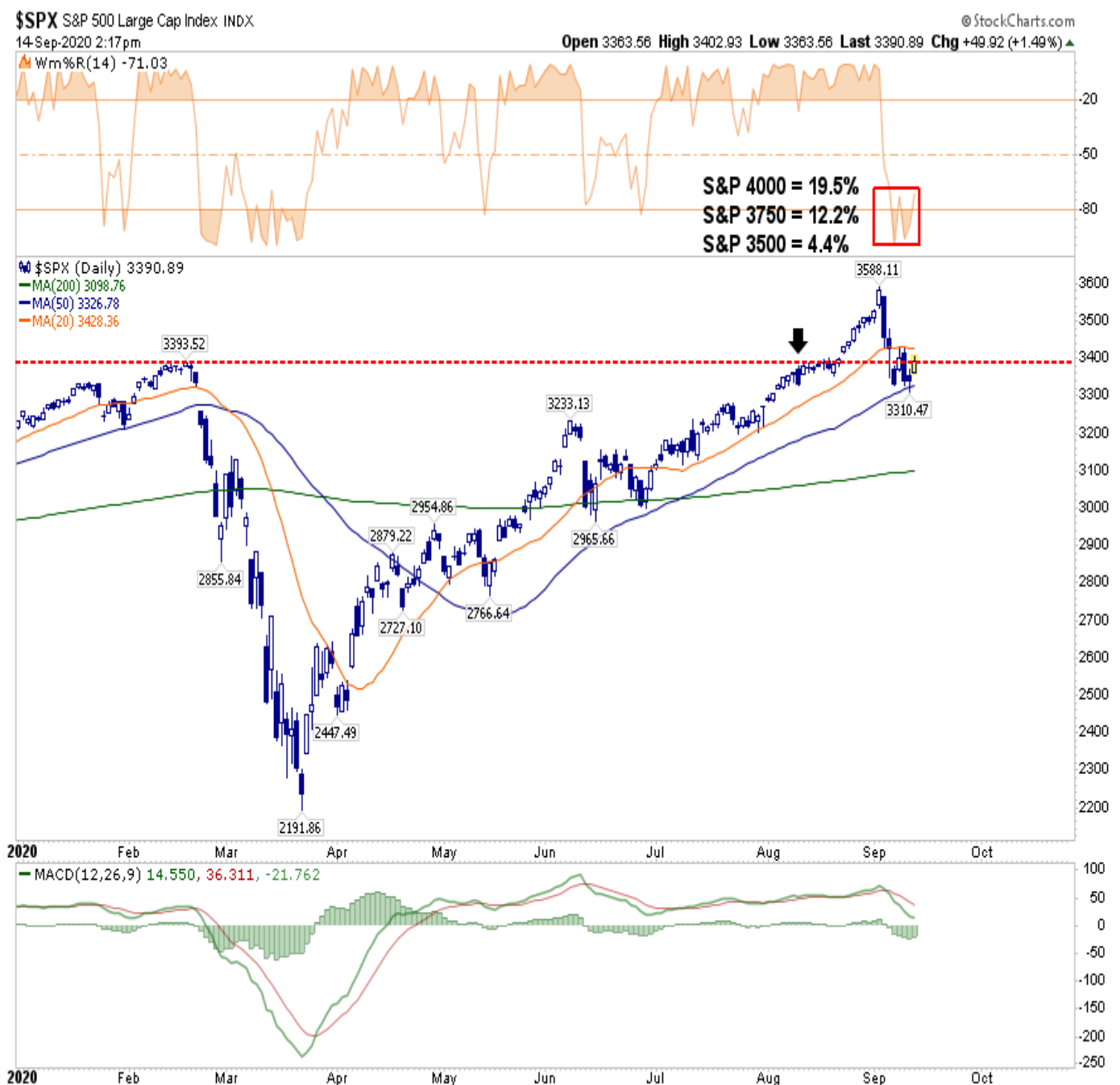
Slower economic growth, combined with a potential for higher taxes, increases the probability that "risk" may well outweigh "reward" at this juncture. However, all of these issues will take time to play out. **In the short-term, it's all about sentiment.**

3750 Or Bust!

Stocks can, and likely will, try and go higher in the near term. There is a tremendous amount of bullish sentiment in this regard. Options speculators have not been deterred by the recent sell-off and continue to "buy the dip."

<https://twitter.com/LanceRoberts/status/1305457439903494146?s=20> **Such is why, despite some likely wiggles along the way, our target of 3750 may still be viable because of momentum and extreme levels of "bullish bias."**

?With the markets closing just at all-time highs, we can only guess where the next market peak will be. Therefore, to gauge risk and reward ranges, we have set targets at 3500, 3750, and 4000 or 4.4%, 12.2%, and 19.5%, respectively. ?



Since that time, the market did indeed rally to, and exceeded, our initial target of 3500. The

subsequent pullback to the 50-dma held the bullish uptrend from April for now and did reverse the short-term overbought condition. Also, as we showed our [RIAPro Subscribers \(30-Day Risk-Free Trial\)](#), the sharp sell-off in Technology specifically pulled the sector out of its *Risk/Reward* range, providing a "bullish setup."

RELATIVE PERFORMANCE		Current	PERFORMANCE RELATIVE TO S&P 500 INDEX					SHORT	LONG	MONTH	REL S&P	RISK RANGE		% DEV -	% DEV -	M/A XVER
Ticker	ETF NAME	Price	1 Week	4 Week	12 Weeks	24 Weeks	52 Weeks	WMA	WMA	END PRICE	BETA	HIGH	LOW	Short M/A	Long M/A	SIGNAL
IVV	ISHARS-SP500	335.38	(2.50)	(0.83)	8.28	31.91	10.73	328.09	308.40	350.77	1.00	359.54	342.00	2%	9%	BULLISH
XLB	SPDR-MATLS SELS	65.07	3.48	4.73	7.54	15.10	(0.71)	60.52	55.81	62.99	1.15	65.29	60.69	8%	17%	BULLISH
XLC	SPDR-COMM SV S\$	59.78	(0.74)	0.75	(0.65)	7.89	5.82	58.42	53.71	63.26	0.99	65.47	61.05	2%	11%	BULLISH
XLE	SPDR-EGY SELS	32.62	(3.95)	(13.75)	(25.85)	(16.77)	(57.33)	36.89	39.31	35.65	1.61	37.12	34.18	-12%	-17%	BEARISH
XLF	SPDR-FINL SELS	24.71	0.21	(1.04)	(5.24)	(14.30)	(24.00)	24.23	24.51	25.06	1.15	25.97	24.15	2%	1%	BEARISH
XLK	SPDR-TECH SELS	112.96	(1.87)	0.02	2.20	11.82	28.45	110.86	98.86	123.55	1.05	127.94	119.16	2%	14%	BULLISH
XLI	SPDR-INDU SELS	77.61	2.20	0.93	3.82	(0.13)	(12.93)	73.11	70.47	77.81	1.16	80.66	74.96	6%	10%	BULLISH
XLP	SPDR-CONS STPL	64.65	1.14	1.59	0.15	(11.10)	(4.82)	62.21	60.40	65.58	0.57	67.59	63.57	4%	7%	BULLISH
XLRE	SPDR-RE SELS	35.55	0.57	(0.03)	(7.72)	(18.01)	(18.61)	35.60	35.43	36.25	0.70	37.41	35.09	0%	0%	BULLISH
XLU	SPDR-UTIL SELS	58.93	1.76	(1.57)	(5.78)	(26.08)	(17.11)	59.08	60.16	59.25	0.35	60.94	57.56	0%	-2%	BEARISH
XLV	SPDR-HLTH CR	104.59	1.45	(1.24)	(4.47)	(8.85)	3.56	104.31	100.00	108.26	0.80	111.83	104.69	0%	5%	BULLISH
XLY	SPDR-CONS DISCR	146.07	1.76	2.56	6.39	17.06	7.62	138.09	124.50	150.09	1.17	155.59	144.59	6%	17%	BULLISH
XTN	SPDR-SP TRANSP	60.60	2.46	3.38	5.32	7.30	(15.24)	56.32	53.75	60.51	1.36	62.85	58.17	8%	13%	BULLISH
SDY	SPDR-SP DIV ETF	94.52	0.23	(2.38)	(5.30)	(11.52)	(19.57)	94.01	92.78	96.36	0.88	99.62	93.10	1%	2%	BULLISH
RSP	INVS-SP5 EQ ETF	109.02	0.65	(0.94)	(2.49)	(1.23)	(11.34)	106.75	102.38	111.40	1.10	115.41	107.39	2%	6%	BULLISH
SLY	SPDR-SP6 SC	61.34	(0.87)	(5.18)	(3.12)	(2.86)	(22.44)	61.48	59.46	63.92	1.24	66.31	61.53	0%	3%	BULLISH
MDY	SPDR-SP MC 400	338.65	0.36	(3.90)	(4.06)	(1.13)	(16.27)	338.66	324.13	351.40	1.18	364.32	338.48	0%	4%	BULLISH
EEM	ISHARS-EMG MKT	43.93	1.58	0.13	1.76	(0.19)	(6.73)	43.11	40.23	44.54	0.89	46.05	43.03	2%	9%	BULLISH
EFA	ISHARS-EAFE	64.80	2.93	0.83	(2.12)	(9.33)	(12.46)	63.41	61.06	64.98	0.82	67.14	62.82	2%	6%	BULLISH
IAU	ISHARS-GOLD TR	18.55	2.99	0.83	3.06	(11.85)	19.72	17.97	16.59	18.77	0.07	19.25	18.29	3%	12%	BULLISH
GDX	VANECK-GOLD MNR	41.16	3.23	2.84	14.40	36.98	43.77	39.60	33.57	42.27	0.70	43.62	40.92	4%	23%	BULLISH
UUP	INVS-DB US\$ BU	25.18	2.86	0.83	(12.83)	(37.71)	(16.50)	25.59	26.33	24.90	(0.10)	25.50	24.30	-2%	-4%	BEARISH
IXUS	ISHARS-CR INT S	58.94	2.47	0.81	(0.36)	(3.98)	(10.14)	57.51	54.71	59.37	0.86	61.36	57.38	2%	8%	BULLISH
TLT	ISHARS-20+YTB	164.48	3.57	1.63	(7.00)	(33.83)	9.73	165.48	161.02	162.19	(0.32)	165.73	158.65	-1%	2%	BULLISH
BNDX	VANGD-TTL INT B	58.07	2.79	1.32	(7.54)	(29.03)	(10.89)	57.90	57.41	57.74	0.03	59.20	56.28	0%	1%	BULLISH
HYG	ISHARS-IBX HYCB	84.45	2.45	1.27	(6.39)	(22.28)	(13.84)	83.90	82.70	85.03	0.40	87.49	82.57	1%	2%	BULLISH



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It's Still A "Sellable Rally."•

The reason we suggest selling any rally is because, until the pattern changes, the market• exhibiting all traits of a "topping process."•

- Weak participation
- Failure at long-term resistance

- *Extreme bullish speculation*
- *Negative divergences in relative strength*

We can show this in a long-term monthly chart.



Note that since 2009, whenever the monthly MACD "buy signal" was this elevated, it typically correlated to a short- to intermediate-term market peak. At each point, the "bullish story" was the same.

- *Earnings are still strong*
- *Economic data suggests the economy is growing strongly*
- *It's a "Goldilocks Economy" (Fed hiking rates is bullish, Fed cutting rates are bullish.)*
- *The Fed is remaining "accommodative."*

However, the primary warning signs to investors were also the same:

- A failure of the economy to live up to market expectations
- A rise in volatility
- A decline in bond yields.

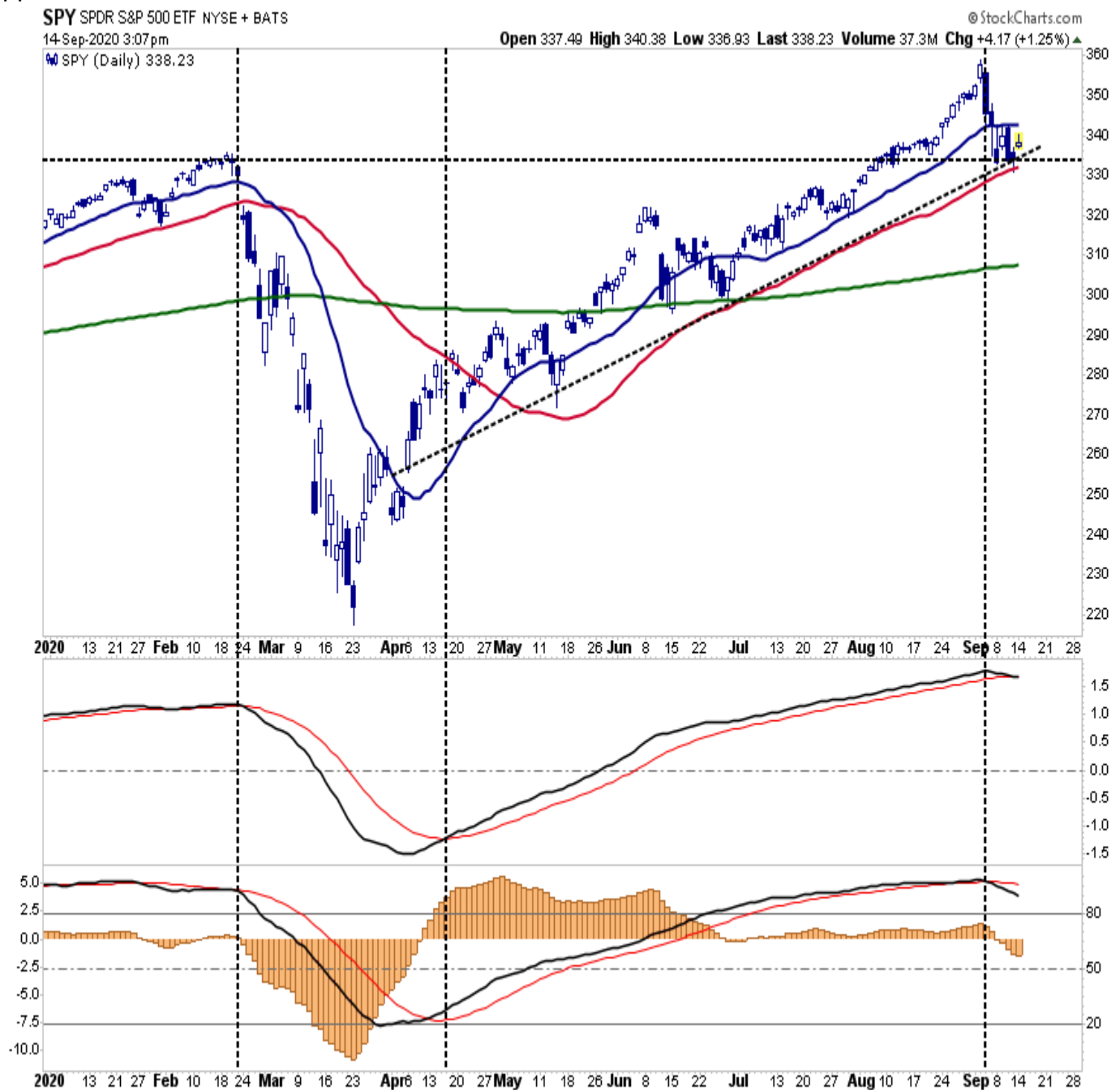
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Some Upside, But Downside

Could that change? Indeed, and if it does, and our "onboarding" model turns back onto a "buy signal," we will act accordingly and increase equity risk in portfolios. However, for now, the risk still appears to be to the downside.



Overall, our assessment remains one of caution. In the short-term, we could well see an oversold bounce that could even recover back to the previous highs. However, we suspect that given the rather numerous headwinds currently facing the markets, from the Fed to the election, that a failure

at lower highs would not be surprising. **While we did add some exposure near the lows, we will be using the rally to sell into and increase our portfolio hedges heading into the election.**•If you disagree, that is okay. However, these are the questions we ask ourselves every time we add exposure to portfolios:

1. *What is the expected return from current valuation levels?*• (___%)
2. *If I am wrong, given my current risk exposure, what is my potential downside?*• (___%)
3. *If #2 is greater than #1, then what actions should I be taking now?*• (#2 - #1 = ___%)

How you answer those questions is entirely up to you. What you do with the answers is also up to you. **Ignoring the results and "hoping this time will be different" has never been a profitable portfolio strategy.**•