

Dr. Die Cast

Not to Decide is to Decide



One of my sisters in-law has an expression that goes like this: “Not to decide is to decide”. The remark is usually related to having just passed our exit while navigating to an unfamiliar destination. Another frequent message might be that annoying voice on our GPS that announces “recalculating”.

Cause and effect: The problem could also happen when we set our course determined to only take right hand exits. That might sound reasonable at first but let me give you an example. If you take Interstate 96 East from Detroit bound for Muskegon, Michigan, and decide that you will simply remain in the passing lane, that works...for a while. As you approach the East side of Lansing remaining in the left lane is a valid plan. You would take the outside loop avoiding I-496 taking you through downtown.

Staying in the left hand lane as you near Grand Rapids would however place you on I-196 and take you through downtown and

farther away from Muskegon unless you make a correction and take US 131 North to intersect I-96 and continue west after a brief visit to downtown Grand Rapids.

So how do we avoid wrong turns? Looking ahead helps. Becoming as familiar as possible with the road also helps. And what about detours? Do we get discouraged and simply give up because we had to make a detour? If you travel far enough whether by automobile or air, you will experience delays and interruptions. The point is to remind ourselves why and where we were going when we started this journey. Of course the above is a metaphor for having to adjust our life or business plans. Long term goals are generally firm. Short term objectives are (or should be) simply steps along the way to that long term goal. Writing down those goals and objectives is essential. It helps to look at our written goals occasionally to remind ourselves why we do what we do. The timing may change but if the goal is worthwhile, it will remain.

Goals should have priorities. Not all goals have the same priority. Certainly, financial goals are important but what about spiritual, health and family? It is said that some have spent all their health achieving wealth, only to spend all their wealth in an effort to restore their health. It is also said that no one on their deathbed was quoted as saying “they wished they spent more time at the office”. We need a certain balance.

Lots of people use the holiday season to evaluate their lives and make “New Year’s Resolutions”. Why does it take a holiday to set or reevaluate your goals? For example Zig Ziglar, states most of the people who resolve to use their exercise club more regularly have given up by the second week of January. Is it time to demonstrate our integrity and perseverance to our families and neighbors and show that our goals mean something, not only personally, but to them and to our employees? I believe it is.



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