



THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

*Brooksville church of Christ
604 W. Fort Dade Avenue, Brooksville, FL*

October 2, 2022

Lean On Me (Isaac Torres)

In 1972, Bill Withers released a popular song entitled “Lean On Me.” Some lyrics from that song are: “Lean on me; when you’re not strong, and I’ll be your friend. I’ll help you carry on.” The idea of depending on one another is evident and vital in these words, and it permeates the song.

There is a concept related to this called synergy. It can be summarized as “the whole being greater than the sum of the individual parts.” One way to illustrate this is considering the weight horses can pull. A horse can pull up to 8,000 pounds. You might come to the conclusion that two horses together would pull 16,000 pounds. However, two horses can pull up to 24,000 pounds when they pull together. This is synergy at work! This total can be increased through familiarity between the horses. If two horses

are trained together, they can pull as much as 32,000 pounds. There is a significant increase in what can be accomplished simply through working together and depending on one another.

This is not just a concept that works with horses; it is also a biblical concept. As God’s people, we can do a lot more when we do not rely solely on ourselves. Primarily we depend on God for guidance, wisdom, and

opportunities. But God designed the church so we are not alone, but we can strengthen one another, encourage one another, and motivate one another.

In Ecclesiastes 4, the author writes, “two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. Furthermore, if two lie down together, they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? And if one can overpower him who



is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12). Two and three are better than one because they can strengthen one another and look out for each other.

In Luke 10.1, it is recorded the Lord sent out seventy disciples, but He “sent them in pairs.” This should not be surprising that two are better than one. There would be many people who would not listen and reject the gospel; this could have discouraged some and even caused some to give up, particularly if they were alone. However, two could encourage and strengthen one another on their difficult journey.

The Lord has blessed us richly with the church, with so many brothers and sisters that have the same goal— to become like Christ

If you
only pray
when you're
in trouble
...you're
in trouble.

and to dwell with Him. Ultimately, we must rely on God. But hopefully, you can also lean on others for strength and encouragement, and you can provide that for them as well. We can accomplish much more for the kingdom when we rely on God and work in harmony with our brothers and sisters.

Direction, Not Desire, Determines Destination

(Keith Wishum)

Where will you be at the end of the year? The answer depends not on dumb luck nor on desire but on direction.

Direction, not desire, determines the destination. For example, personal space minimization (sounds better than fat loss, doesn't it?) is a common goal each January. But, if you continue in the same direction as before – the same eating and exercise habits – you won't reach that goal. Desire is worthless without actual movement in the desired direction.

We don't stand still. In Americus, the earth spins at roughly 893 mph as it hurtles through space at about 67,000 mph. Our bodies are in constant flux as millions of cells die and are replaced. We are always in motion.

It's true spiritually, too. We are growing closer to God or drifting

away - moving toward heaven or toward hell. And it's not what we say we want – not desire – but our actual direction that determines the destination.

Years ago, I was driving east on I-40 across Arkansas on a Sunday evening. My desire was to go to Memphis, where I lived. When I began to see mileage signs for St. Louis, I knew something was wrong. In my sleepiness, I had merged onto I-55 and changed direction. My desire was to go east to Memphis, but my direction was north. I had to change either my destination or my direction.

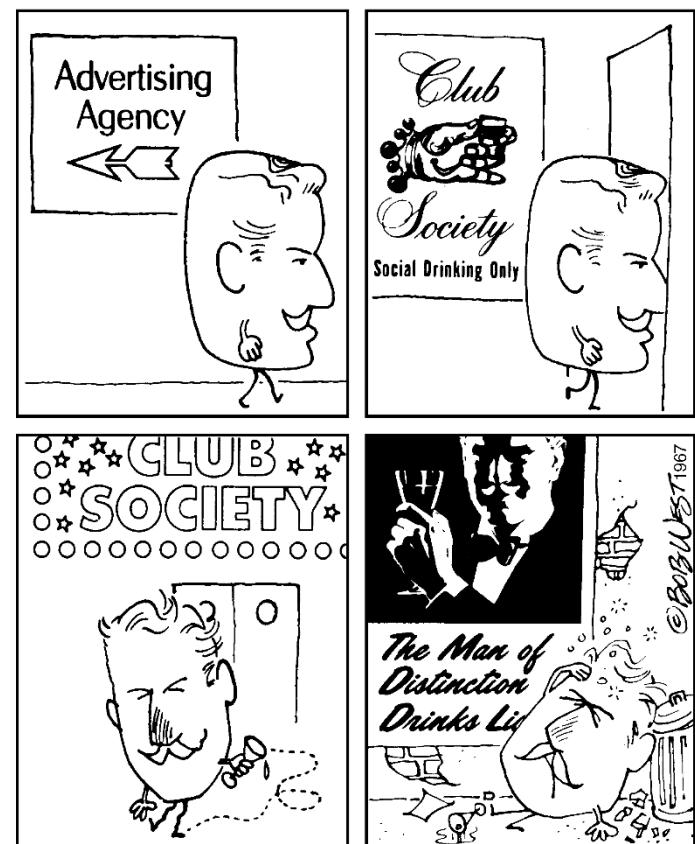


So, back to our earlier question: Where are you going? If you continue just as you are now, where will that take you? Is that where you really desire to go? Is it where God would direct you to go?

Jesus told 3 parables about everyone's ultimate destination. At the end of the road, we will each hear one of two pronouncements from God: "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance," or "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire" (Matthew 25:34, 41).

What will determine the difference is not desire but

THEOPHILUS



direction. Surely nobody desires hell! But, no matter how much I want to go to heaven, if I keep driving toward hell, then hell is where I will end my journey.

It's important to be a go-getter, but it's even more important to know what you're going to get. As we explore the opportunities of a new year, examine not only desire but also direction.

If you aren't headed where you want to go, change direction! "Ponder the path of your feet and let all your ways be established" (Proverbs 4:23).



Food For Thought

- ✓ A retentive memory may be a good thing, but the ability to forget is the true token of greatness. (Elbert Hubbard, 1859-1915)
- ✓ An hour spent in hate is an eternity withdrawn from love. (Ludwig Boerne, 1786-1837)
- ✓ “I can forgive, but I cannot forget” is only another way of saying, “I will not forgive.” A forgiveness ought to be like a canceled note, torn in two and burned up so that it can never be shown against the man. (Henry Ward Beecher, 1858)
- ✓ It is not well for a man to pray cream and live skim milk. (Henry Ward Beecher, 1858)
- ✓ Good preaching sounds reveille, not taps. (James M. Gillis, 1956)
- ✓ When you get to your wit’s end, you’ll find God lives there.

The poster features a person in a blue shirt holding an open Bible. The text reads:

BOLDLY
PREACH THE GOSPEL

GOSPEL MEETING

October 9 – 14
With Jeff McCrary
Sunday 10:00am / 11:00am / 6:00pm
Monday – Friday 7:00pm
BROOKSVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
604 W. Fort Dade Avenue, Brooksville
www.brooksvillecoc.com

Prepare For The Gospel Meeting

1. Plan to be at each service.
2. Bring your Bible and an open heart.
3. Invite friends and neighbors.
4. BE ON TIME!
5. Pray for the meeting and the speaker.
6. Grow in the wisdom of God.

Brooksville Church of Christ

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Times of Services

Sunday Bible Class for all ages (10:00am)
Sunday Worship all Welcome (11:00am & 6:00pm)
Wednesday Bible Class for all ages (7:00pm)

Supporting the GOSPEL in other places:

❖ Jamey Hinds, Hollywood, Florida; Roy Fenner, Panama City, Florida
❖ Zeke Flores, Columbus, Texas; Philip North, Branson, Missouri
❖ The saints in Nicaragua

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