

PASS THE BATON

- I. I Cor 9:24-26 (When Born Again we enter into a spiritual race) / Eccl 9:11 “**race is not to the swift**”
- A. Heb 12:1 “run the race with **endurance**” Def Endurance: cheerful, hopeful, constancy, continuance, patience
1. Race requires **commitment**: 1 Cor 9:24 “those who run in a race **run all**”
 - a. There is no quitting in order to remain qualified to “**receive the prize**” 1 Cor 9:24
 2. Race requires **disciplines**: vs 25 “**temperate in all things**” & “**I discipline my body ..bring it into subjection**”
 - a. no discipline results in: vs 27 **disqualified** / Def: unapproved, rejected, cast away
 3. Paul compares being disqualified to “**running in vain**”: Def vain: empty
 - a. Running in vain / ending up empty: not living a godly life, having bad doctrine, following visions & dreams
 - b. Running in vain / ending up empty: having labored & lived for The Lord and see it all end in your life span
By not leaving a legacy & releasing a spiritual inheritance into the next generation
- B. This Christian race is not simply an outright rush to the finish line & then pass on into glory:
1. This is a **SPIRITUAL RELAY RACE** where we are to leave a legacy & pass on a spiritual inheritance
 - a. Pass on a **spiritual baton** to our natural & spiritual sons and daughters who will continue on
 - (1) This applies to all Five Fold Ministry Gifts (Eph 4:1)), Parents, and every believer / Matt 28:19 make disciples
- C. 2 Tim 2:2 “all things you heard from me...**commit (Def deposit)** ...to faithful men”
1. Paul is teaching that the goal is not to just die and go to heaven. There are first relay stations / **exchange zones**
 - a. Where every believer is to commit / deposit / pass the baton / leave a legacy / impart spiritual inheritance
 2. 2 Tim 4:7 “**I have finished the course**” : Paul stated this before he died / before he went to heaven
 - a. Paul could say he had already finished his course is because of 2 Tim 4:6 I am **already being poured out**”
 - b. Paul left a legacy, imparted spiritual inheritance, passed the baton on to: Timothy 1 Tim 1:2, Titus 1 Tim :4 Epaphroditus Phil 2:25, Tychicus 2 Tim 4:21, Prothimus 221, John Mark 2 Tim 4:11 & others
 - D. Elijah had a bad day running from Jezebel & had the mint set of many believers: wanting to simply die & go to Heaven. 1 Kings 19:4 “It is enough now, O Lord, take my life”
 1. 1 Ki 19:6 we find that God would not send the chariot & take him to heaven because the baton was still in his Hand: “you shall anoint as prophet **in your place**” (Elijah forgot he was in a relay race)
- II. Passing this spiritual baton is not an easy thing...Paul had some difficulties with this responsibility:
- A. 2 Tim 4:9 “Demas as **forsaken me**, having **loved this present world**”
1. 2 Tim 4:16 “**all have forsaken me**”
 2. Phil 2:20-21 “I have **no man like minded**”**all seek their own**, nothings which are Jesus Christ’s”
- III. **Principles of passing a baton in a relay race:**
- A. When the incoming runner hits a predetermined mark called the **exchange zone**, the outgoing runner is in position On the course and begin to sprint
1. The outgoing runner reaches back to receive the baton as the incoming & outgoing runner run in stride together
 2. The incoming runner then reaches forward & passes the baton into the hand of the outgoing runner
- B. Spiritual comparisons: The **incoming runner is the**: Five Fold Ministry Gift / Parent / Mature Believer
1. As the **Incoming runner**: Pastor / parent / mature believer approaches the exchange zone:
 - a. they **reach forward into the future / vision, with the spiritual baton**
 - b. They **cannot look backwards** at the difficulties, offenses, disappointments of the course the just ran
 - (1) Phil 3:13 & 14 “forgetting those things which are behind & reaching forward...press toward the goal”
- C. Also, **there must be some already on the course & in position at the exchange zone**
1. Cannot be someone who the incoming run **unfamiliar** with...has to be a son / daughter whom they trained with
 - a. outgoing runner: natural / spiritual son / daughter **must run in stride** with the one who has poured into them
 - b. keeping their eyes forward as they are reaching back to receive the baton (they must be at the exchange zone)
 - (1) **keeping their eyes on the course** & on the vision the Holy Spirit placed in their heart & was prophesied over Their life in the church
 - (2) at the exchange zone the **focus changes** for the outgoing runner son / daughter: from the Pastor / parent / Mature believer who has poured into their life to looking at: Jesus Heb 12:2 & course set before them
 - (3) not looking at the incoming runner Pastor, parent, mature believer: and not look at the frailty their human Nature after running their course called life and ministry
 - (4) and not understand the reason they may no longer look like the **spiritual hero** you looked up to is because: Everything that was in them as been **spent & transferred into the baton** they are holding out for you to grasp
 - (A) in that baton is a legacy, spiritual inheritance, the anointing that rested upon their life
 - (B) and enables you to enter the race at the **EXCHANGE ZONE**, instead of the **STARTING LINE**
- D. There are times when the incoming runner: Pastor/ parent / mature believer arrives at the exchange zone, reaches

forward, extending this spiritual baton & **no one is there to receive it:**

1. Because of people: seeking their own, loving this present world more than Jesus, unteachable, rebellious,
Thus: not in position at the exchange zone, and the baton falls to the ground...instead of being passed on
 - a. The baton ends up in a grave just as Elisha took his anointing and spiritual inheritance to the grave as seen in 1 Kings 13:21
- E. But then, there are those times when the incoming runner: Pastor, parent, mature believer:
 1. Approaches the exchange zone and extends that spiritual baton
 - a. and **there is a Timothy, Titus**, etc..... in position at the exchange zone
 - b. running in stride with you
 - c. and you can see their maturity as they keep their eyes on the course set before them / they caught the vision / Their eyes are looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of their faith
 - d. Then that **connection takes place** / a spiritual inheritance is released / the mantle is transferred into the next generation.
 2. Then like Paul you can proclaim:
 - 2 Tim 4:1 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith
 - a. Not because you are about to take your last breath
 - b. rather, **BECAUSE YOU HAVE PASSED THE BATON ON TO THE NEXT GENERATION**
 - (1) Jesus proclaimed “**IT IS FINISHED**” (Jn 19:30), had nothing to do with Him taking His last breath
 - (2) It had nothing to do with Him going back to heaven
 - (3) Rather, **He seen the lives of those whom He had poured Himself into & passed the baton on to**