PASS THE BATON

I. 1 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: 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, Prophimus 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 &aces 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 vison 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 past 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 O 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 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**