

Passing the Baton

(2 Timothy 2:2)

- Introduction:
1. On February 27, 2011, Frank Buckles died at the age of 110.
 2. His claim to fame is not that he is the oldest man who ever lived, but he was the last American Survivor of WWI.
 3. Time passes so quickly! I remember parades with WWI vets.
 4. Then I think about some of the great preachers who have influenced my life and preaching – Johnny Ramsey, Winford Claiborne, Hugo McCord, Thomas Warren, My Dad, etc. – The one thing all these men have in common is that they have passed from this world.
 5. Who is going to stop up and stand in the gap left by these men?

I. A Generation that Failed

- A. (Judges 2:10).
- B. The youth did not know God or know of the works of God.
- C. Ills. Of boy who did not know the story of Jonah.
- D. Are we raising a biblically illiterate generation?
- E. Who are we training to take the gospel to the world?

II. Our Responsibility

- A. (2 Corinthians 4:7).
- B. (Ephesians 1:22-23).
- C. Often hear that the Christian race is not a spirit but a marathon. But it may also be better compared to a “relay race.”
- D. We must hand off the baton to the next generation.
- E. Lady asked me why I came to Oklahoma to speak to young men about preaching (2 Timothy 2:2).
- F. Evangelism is not a talent, it’s a command.

III. Passing The Baton

- A. Decide what you want your legacy to be.
 1. Ills. Young man who said he would be disciplined in 10 years.
 2. (Daniel 1:8).
- B. Live out the legacy you want to leave.
 1. (Numbers 23:10) Balaam.
 2. Ills. Of daughter and the armored car.
- C. Choose who will carry on your legacy.
 1. You’re replaceable.
 2. Ills. Surgery and 13 preachers who can take my place.
 3. Who are you mentoring?
 4. (2 Timothy 2:2).
 5. Is it deliberate, intentional, purposeful?
- D. Pass the baton.
 1. We must let go and hand off to another.
 2. (2 Samuel 21:15-17).
 3. Ills. Of man who wouldn’t step aside.

IV. How To Pass The Baton

- A. (Numbers 27:16-23).
- B. Joshua knew what Moses thought of him (27:18).
 - 1. He laid his hands on him.
 - 2. This creates expectations and a sense of accountability.
- C. The people knew what Moses thought of Joshua (27:19).
 - 1. This gave notice to the people.
 - 2. It was a public way of expressing support and protection for Joshua.
- D. Moses shared responsibility with him (27:20).
 - 1. This is a demonstration of trust and it empowers Joshua to work.

- Conclusion:
- 1. Remember, “into our hands the gospel is given.”
 - 2. What will we do with what has been placed in our hands?
 - 3. Will it fall to the ground when we die, or will there be someone to whom we passed it off?