

Theme: We are called to a strong personal relationship to Christ, and to receive, guard, and pass the faith on to others unchanged.

I. Intro – The Missed Handoff – Focal Pt

- A. Women's 400m relay team – Athens Olympics
- B. Marion Jones did not get baton to Lauryn Williams
- C. Best team was out of race – disqualified
- D. Not enough to run well – must pass baton
- E. Our focal points for 2006

II. Be Strong In the Grace – Run the Race

- A. Be strong in the grace of Christ (v1)
 - 1. Deals with a personal walk with Christ
 - 2. Metaphors describe strenuous walk – athlete v5
 - 3. Requires us to be strong (v1; Eph 6:10; Phil 4:13)
 - 4. To live for Christ – we need grace (v1)
 - 5. The means of grace – 7 this year
- B. Can't help others unless we walk with Christ

III. Receive, Guard, and Pass On the Faith

- A. Receive the faith from others (v2; heard from me)
 - 1. Timothy learned from Paul (v2; 2 Tim 1:13)

- 2. Timothy had learned from others (2 Tim 3:14-15)
- 3. We learn the faith from someone - disciplined

B. Guard the faith from change/error (v2; entrust)

- 1. Teaching entrusted to Timothy (v2)
- 2. Keep teaching, guard deposit by Spirit (2 Tim 1:13-14)
- 3. Timothy guard what entrusted (1 Tim 6:20-21)
- 4. All must hold teachings exactly as given (1 Cor 11:2)
- 5. All must hold to teachings – early! (2 Th 2:15)

C. Pass On the faith to others (v2; entrust to others)

- 1. Teaching now given to others (v2)
- 2. Ezra – learned, kept – and taught (Ezra 7:10)
- 3. Pass to faithful men – who repeat (v2)
- 4. Faithful men – elders (Titus 1:6-9)
- 5. All called! (v2 – many witnesses; 1 Tim 4:6,11,13,16)

D. The endless cycle – also pass on to others (v2)

IV. Conclusion

- A. Are you growing strong in Christ?
 - 1. Are you faithfully practicing means of grace?

2. Can't hand off baton if we do not run ourselves
- B. Are you receiving the faith?
1. Are you being disciplined?
 2. Takes more than Sunday – small group, relationships
 3. Will have classes this year as well
- C. Are you guarding the faith?
1. Will you be able to hand the faith on unchanged?
 2. Are you protecting truth – or buying lies?
- D. Are you passing the faith on to others?
1. Not a solo race – relay!
 2. Parents – passing to children?
 3. Exhorting others to remain true?
 4. Discipling younger believers?
- E. Memorize 2 Timothy 2:1-2

Vision 2006 - Running the Race, Passing on the Faith

2 Timothy 2:1-2
January 15, 2006
We'll Be Faithful
2 Corinthians 13:14

Running the Race – Passing On the Faith

We will strive to obey God's call to run the race, carrying the faith as individuals and as a church

We will strive to obey God's call to encourage and train others so that they can run the race and pass on the faith

10 Finally, **be strong** in the Lord and in his mighty power.
Ephesians 6:10

13 I can do everything through him **who gives me strength**.
Philippians 4:13

- The Word
- Prayer
- Fellowship
- The Lord's Supper
- Worship
- Service
- Giving

13 **What you heard from me**, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.
2 Timothy 1:13

14 But as for you, **continue in what you have learned** and have become convinced of, because you know **those from whom you learned it**, 15 and how **from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
2 Timothy 3:14-15

13 What you heard from me, **keep as the pattern of sound teaching**, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. 14 **Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you-- guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us**.
2 Timothy 1:13-14

20 Timothy, **guard what has been entrusted to your care**. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, 21 which **some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith**. Grace be with you.
1 Timothy 6:20-21

2 I praise you for remembering me in everything and for **holding to the teachings, just as I passed them on to you**.
1 Corinthians 11:2

15 So then, brothers, stand firm and **hold to the teachings we passed on to you**, whether by word of mouth or by letter.
2 Thessalonians 2:15

10 For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, **and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel**.
Ezra 7:10

6 **An elder must be blameless**, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. 7 **Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless--** not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness... 9 **He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it**.
Titus 1:6-9

6 If **you point these things out to the brothers**, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed... 11 **Command and teach these things...** 13 **Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching...** 16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, **you will save both yourself and your hearers**.
1 Timothy 4:6,11,13,16