

SERMON RECAP: "PASSING THE BATON" – ROMANS 15:14-22

When you have faithfully run your race, and are securely tucked into Jesus' arms in Heaven what kind of heritage will you want to leave behind? The race metaphor is used frequently in the Bible as the individual's race, but if we expand the metaphor to a relay race it begins to represent the church and its race, of faithful obedience. What will we as a church pass on to the next generation? Are we passing on a heritage of faithfulness and obedience, or are we passing on things that we never intended to pass on?

For reflection:

1. Life is a Race
 - a. The metaphor
 - b. Get rid of the hindrances (Hebrews 12:1-4)
 - c. Running for the prize (Philippians 3:12-14)
 - d. Finish well (Romans 15:14-16; 30-32; I Cor. 9:24-27)
2. Expanding the metaphor (v 17-19)
 - a. The relay race
 - b. Passing the baton
3. Breaking the spiritual patterns
 - a. The sins of the fathers (Exodus 20:16)
 - b. Throw off the sin that entangles (Hebrews 12:1)
 - c. The Day of Prayer and Fasting

THIS WEEK

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS ON SUNDAY:

We congratulate and thank God for the men who were elected as officers last Sunday - Bob Rineer, Dave Denning, and Chris Sharp to the office of Deacon, and Henry DeLong as a Ruling Elder. The installations will take place during worship this Sunday. Please pray for them as they assume these roles (and continue, in Chris' case) as well as for all the men who give of themselves to serve Christ and His church.

We will also have a time to pray for those who are stepping into new positions of service: Chris Bennett as our Treasurer; Ray Shade to the Diaconal Ministry team; and Wanda Aument, Bev Holt, Lisa Lehman, Elizabeth Mindemann, Kathy Pickens, and Joann Rineer to the Women's Council.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS:

A new class has started, based on Ken Sande's book "The Peacemaker", and is meeting in Room 211. Grab some coffee and learn what the Bible says about conflict resolution and how to apply the principles of peacemaking at home, at your job, and in the church.

OTHER NEWS, UPCOMING EVENTS, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

WORSHIP/SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME CHANGE:

We announced last week that beginning March 10th, the schedule for Sunday morning will change. Sunday School will begin at 9:00 AM, then we will have a time of Fellowship with refreshments from 10:00-10:30, and we will have Worship from 10:30-11:45 AM. Also, we are going to plan a church lunch once a quarter so that we can maintain the fellowship and time together as a body that we've had with our brunches.

This was not a decision made lightly nor quickly, and the Session met with many - the church committees, Women's Council, and people involved with activities of Sunday mornings to gain a broad range of thoughts

on the question, and if a change was to be made what we needed to take care to provide. And while personal preferences both ways were mentioned, everyone was willing to lay their preferences aside and see what would be best for Faith Church and our outreach to our community. Above all, the Session is grateful to the Lord for that spirit of love for one another that everyone has showed.

One of the factors (not the only one) was that a later worship time can enable us to better serve our community, both because of our overall culture in the Solanco area and in our unique location of ministry to QPRC. We're planning on publicizing this change to let our community know of our new worship time and invite them to come. We'd love for people to bring creative ideas on how to do that! If you'd like to help, come to a short meeting on Tuesday, February 12 from 6:45 – 7:15 PM here at the church office. If you can't make it, please let the office or staff know and we'll be sure to get in touch with you!

DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING:

As you've heard for several weeks, the Session is calling the entire church to participate in a day of prayer and fasting on Saturday, March 2nd. We will spend time confessing sins, some of which go back many years, knowing that "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). And, we will spend time asking Him to heal us and send us forward in the riches of Jesus Christ.

We'll gather at the church building from 8:30-9:30 AM, and from 5:00-6:00 PM to join together in prayer. The church will spend the rest of the day praying individually and as families. The building will be open all day for anyone to come and pray anytime. Please participate with us – it is important that we do this together as a church!

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY:

Planning for the future is hard when you're still paying for the past! Listen—there's a better way! Join our Financial Peace University group, and we'll learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future...together! Interested? Join us in the Multi-Purpose Room, starting March 3rd, on Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00 PM. The cost of the class is \$109 if you sign up online, and the fee will be reimbursed to anyone who completes the class. If the upfront payment is a problem, please speak to one of the Deacons.

Feel free to send questions to Chris Sharp (sharp.c.e@gmail.com or 717-201-4740). Sign up at <https://www.fpu.com/1084551>. (We will also have a sign-up form in the Welcome Center, but it's best to use the online signup.)

NEW WOMEN'S STUDY:

A new study for women will take place on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month at 10 AM here at the church. Children are welcome and will play in the nursery during the study. For more information, please contact Kathy Pickens (443.571.0977).

NEEDLEWORKERS:

The NeedleWorkers will resume meeting on February 14th in the library. If anyone would like yarn or patterns for baby sweaters, caps, or afghans to work on, please call Carolyn Raber at 717.786.6840. Completed items will be given to faith-based pregnancy centers and/or social service ministries in the spring.