

Passing the Torch - Cont.

day can pass the torch. Parents can do it with their children (Deuteronomy 6:6ff; Ephesians 6:4; 2 Timothy 3:15). Elders can do it with the local church (Acts 20:28). Preachers can do it with their audiences (2 Timothy 4:2). Teachers can do it with their Bible classes (2 Timothy 2:2). All Christians can do it with the world around them (1 Peter 3:15).

What Happens If We Don't Pass It On?

If Christians choose not to pass the torch for whatever reason - laziness, too busy, uncaring, etc. - then there will be some negative consequences. The next generation may be ignorant of God and lose their soul (Judges 2:10). There could be spiritual destruction due to a lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). Local churches could even lose their spiritual identity (Revelation 2-3).

Passing the Torch

Yes, passing the torch takes work and patience now. But let us all do the great work of passing the torch. Think of how many loved-ones we can benefit in the years to come if we will just pass the torch to them today!

- Chris Reeves -

- Scripture of the Week -

"So we built the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto half the height thereof: for the people had a mind to work. "
- Nehemiah 4:6 -

If I want to accomplish a lot of good for the Lord, I am going to have to have "a mind to work". This week I will have "a mind to work" to build for the Lord.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Passing the Torch

The expression we have, “passing the torch,” is a good one which speaks of passing on good character, good practices, or good doctrines to the next generation below us. The younger generations coming up in the Lord’s church need us who are older to pass on to them what is good and right.

The phrase “passing the torch” was in existence “from at least the early 1800’s and originates from the Greek race of passing the torch. This is also the beginning of the Olympics as a traditional pre-ceremony. It is currently used metaphorically but began with a torch race where one person would run with a torch in hand and pass it on to another person waiting after an interval. The runner would pass it to the next one until the last runner crossed the finish line” (source: theidioms.com).

Bible Examples of Passing the Torch

- Moses “passed the torch” to Joshua when Moses was about to die. He passed the torch of leadership to Joshua so he could lead Israel to Canaan land (Deuteronomy 31:1-13).

- Joshua “passed the torch” to Israel when Joshua was about to die. He passed the torch of faithfulness to Israel and encouraged them to serve the Lord in sincerity and in truth (Joshua 23-24).
- David “passed the torch” to Solomon when David was about to die. He passed the torch of obedience to God to his son (1 Chronicles 22-29).
- Jesus “passed the torch” to the apostles when Jesus was about to die. He passed the torch of truth to his apostles so they could preach the gospel to the world (John 14-17).
- Paul “passed the torch” to Timothy when Paul was about to die. He passed the torch of the work of the preacher to Timothy so he could keep doing the important job of preaching (2 Timothy 1:13; 2:2; 4:2-8).

What to Pass On?

What exactly is a faithful Christian today to pass on to the next generation of Christians? Well, many good things could be passed on in the form of advice. But, the most important thing to pass on is God’s word. It would be good to pass on things like:

- Trust in God’s promises.
- Courage in the face of opposition.
- Respect (fear) for God.
- A knowledge God’s word.
- The fixed standard or pattern of the New Testament church.
- The need for separation from the world.
- Single-minded service to God.

Key Issues to Pass On

What are some key issues, doctrines, and practices that could be passed on? You could pass on the work, organization, and worship of the church. You could pass on the truth about marriage, divorce, and remarriage. You could pass on belief in God, Jesus, and the Bible. You could pass on the Bible teaching about Jesus our only savior, the plan of salvation, or moral living in an ungodly world.

Who Passes the Torch?

Like Moses, Joshua, David, Jesus, and Paul, any committed Christian to-