

“The Race set before Us” Heb. 12:1,2

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, May 20th AM

God often describes our lives as a type of “Relay Race”. (1 Cor. 9:25-27; 2 Tim. 2,4; Heb. 12:1,2)

In order to “Win” we must understand and undergo:

1. Preparation. (Training)

Only a fool fails to prepare and still expects Victory!

A. Some of this is “parental”. Pr. 22:6 *“Train up a child in the way he should go”*

Hānak: to dedicate, train, discipline!

B. Most of it is “Personal”. 2 Chr. 12:14

“Rehoboam... did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.”

1) Contrast this attitude with his grandfather David: 1 Chr 29:2

“Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God”

C. Training involves:

1) The Brain (Principles / Information) Hosea 4:6 *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:”*

2) The Body. (Persistence: Repetition!) 1 Cor. 9:24-27 *“But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”*

Without Discipline you get Disqualified! (see also 1 Peter 2:11)

3) The Heart. (Passion / Dedication) Mt 22:37 *“love the Lord with all thine Heart...”*

Dedication to God brings His Blessing! (Joshua 1:8)

“Then thou shalt make thy way prosperous (to push forward) and have good success” (Skill and wisdom)

2. Transition. Deut. 6:4-7,12 *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children,...Then beware lest thou forget the LORD”*

A. The “Handoff Zone” is limited. (20 meters)

1) Most relays are won or lost here!

2) What if one “leg” (generation) drops the baton! Heb. 2:1-3

“we ought to give the more earnest heed (prosechō: Hold, grip) to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.” (Pararre’ō: “carelessly pass!”)

Some drop the baton intentionally! Jude 1:3-4 *“earnestly contend for the faith”*

Conclusion: In the relay race of life:

➤ Each generation runs their part, then passes the baton to the next. 2 Tim. 2:2 *“things that thou hast heard of me ... commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”*

➤ Each leg of the race (generation) affects subsequent “legs”. (2 Tim. 3:15)

“The philosophy of the school room in one generation, will become the philosophy of the Government in the next!” A. Lincoln

The “Philosophy” of early American Schools was soundly Christian.

- The opening line of the 1647 law proposing mandatory public education reads:
“It being one chief project of that old deluder, Satan, to keep men from the knowledge of the Scriptures...It is therefore ordered that every township...after the Lord hath increased them to 50 households, shall appoint one within to teach all children to write and read...”
- 106 out of the first 108 US Colleges were Christian!
- The First was Harvard! (1636) It’s original mission statement includes: *”Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ, which is eternal life.And therefore to lay Christ ...as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning.” (Mt 7:24-27)*
 Harvard’s original motto was “Truth: For Christ and the Church”.
 In the late 1800’s it was subtly changed to just “Veritas: Truth”

What led to previous generations “dropping the baton”?

- 1) 1859 “Origin of the Species” published. See 1 Tim. 6:21,21
- 2) Harvard shifted motto and shield. (late 1800’s)
- 3) 1925 Scopes Monkey Trial. (ACLU lost this case!)
- 4) 1933 Humanist Manifesto 1
- 5) 1962 Engel Vs. Vitale prayer in school is now unconstitutional.
- 6) 1963 Abington Vs Schempp: Bible reading was outlawed in schools.
- 7) 1963: Murray Vs. Curlett: Reciting the Lord’s Prayer in School was outlawed.
- 8) 1968: Epperson Vs Arkansas: Evolution was protected and creation outlawed.
- 9) 1980: Stone Vs Graham. The 10 Commandments in School was outlawed!

The “Baton” of Biblical Truths that were “self evident” to our Country’s founders, and stood for over 300 years were rejected and reframed in less than one generation!

In just the last 5 years the “baton” of marriage and gender has been dropped!

These may “limit” us, but we can also “learn” from their mistakes.

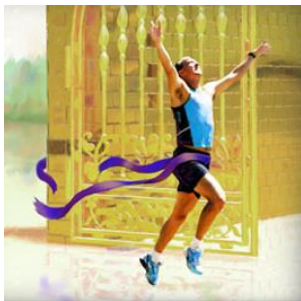
“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.” 1 Cor. 10:11

Application: We’re not responsible for how previous “generations” ran their “race”...

But we are 100% responsible for how we run ours! Heb. 12:1

“Let us run with patience the race (Agōn: contest, conflict) set before us.”

Is 58:11-12 “the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul ... And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations and thou shalt be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in”



Don’t lose sight of the final Destination! 2 Tim. 4:7,8

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

Heb. 1:1,2 “Let us run the race before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith”