

Message Title: **'The Divine Relay'**

Scripture Source: **Hebrews 12:1-2; 1Timothy 4:16**

Date: Sunday, September 11, 2016

Teachers: Pastors Stephen, Paul, and John

1. The Exchange Zone – Pastor Stephen

- What the race calls for
- Hebrews 12:1-2a
- "Ready is a tricky word when it comes to following Jesus and doing His will. Why? Because there is a huge difference between feeling ready and actually being ready." Christine Caine
- God's call comes to each of us at every age and stage of life

2. Stretch out your hand – Pastor Paul

- Assembled isolation
- 2 Timothy 2:2
- Stretch out your hand to RECEIVE
- Stretch out your hand to GIVE
- Champions of the faith
- Stretch out your hand

3. Where Relays are Lost and Won – Pastor John

The 'exchange zone' is a critically important place in the race. In the recent Olympics, our men's 4x4 relay team was bumped up into the bronze medal spot because of a mistake made in...out of their 'exchange zone.'

The Christian life is often described in athletic terms...a wrestling match, a boxing match, a foot race. Followers of Jesus are called to 'run in such a way as to win the prize.' 1 Corinthians 9:24

Run the Relay Purposefully

Pass the baton of 'faith, hope, and love' to another, with intentionality and preparedness. Pass your life on to others...an example of a growing and tangible expressions of faith in God, hope in God's grace and promises and acts of loving service.

The Baton is Who You Are! - 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

This is an amazing and instructive passage...Paul and his 'relay team' passed on the gospel in words and in how they lived. This is profound friends. Consider 1 Thessalonians 2:8

Pay Attention to the Quality of the Baton – 1 Timothy 4:16

"Keep a firm grasp on both your character and your teaching. Don't be diverted. Just keep at it. Both you and those who hear you will experience salvation." (The Message)

Baton Repair

You may think you are too old to pass on faith, hope and love. Nothing could be further from the truth. You may think your baton is too beat up and only fit for the garbage. Nothing could be further from the truth. Give your life, with its dents and scratches to God. And ask Him to forgive you of your sins, ask him to help you learn lessons from missteps made and pass on to others the story of God's forgiving grace and mercy through Jesus, pass on to others painful and wise insights gained from failure and loss and see and hear how God uses you in profound ways in the lives of others, younger and older in the divine relay.

Breaking the Tape

One day the race will be finished and by his grace we long to hear these ancient words. 'Well done, good and faithful servant...enter the joy of your Lord.'