

Passing the Torch

A Journey through Church History

Passing the Torch: A Journey through Church History

I. Intro.

2 Tim. 2:1-2: You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

II. One More Purpose Point

A. To help us understand how the doctrines we hold today were discovered and defined.

B. Why use the word “discovered”?

C. Receiving doctrines from past presents a unique challenge.

1. What principles should govern how we handle the teaching that comes from followers of Christ who existed before us?

2. What are some guidelines or guardrails that we should keep in mind as we relate to the doctrines that have been passed on to us?

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II. One More Purpose Point

C. Receiving doctrines from past presents a unique challenge.

3. No doctrine is above fresh Biblical scrutiny.

4. However, we must guard against anti-authoritarian arrogance.

5. We must thoroughly examine the reasons for which we question a given doctrine.

D. Seeing the discovery and dissemination of doctrine throughout church history should leave us humble and grateful.

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III. Setting the Stage: The Apostolic Witness

A. Events

1. Pentecost: May, A.D. 30
2. Death of Herod Agrippa I: A.D. 44
 - a. Preceded by death of James the Elder
 - b. Preceded by Peter's imprisonment & release
3. Jerusalem Council: A.D. 50
4. Paul's missionary journeys: A.D. 51-58
 - a. Writing of the epistles to the Galatians, Corinthians & Romans: A.D. 56-58.
5. Paul's imprisonment in Caesarea (after being arrested in Jerusalem) during the procuratorship of Felix and Festus (A.D. 58-60).
6. Paul's imprisonment in Rome: A.D. 61-63
7. Writing of epistles to Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians & Philemon during this time.