

Passing the Mantle

2 Timothy 2:2
January 29, 2017

Good morning - it is our privilege to be with you at Bemidji Free Church today as you officially install Albin as your new Pastor of Youth and Young Adults. Pastor Jerry, thank for this opportunity. My name is Tom Sterneman and I am Albin's dad.

I trust you have your Bible with you today for I want to speak from **2 Timothy 2:2**
“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”

This verse is from a personal letter of encouragement and challenge from Paul to Timothy as Timothy takes on the leadership role of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We will focus on the concept of passing the mantle. Did you know there are two spellings of this word?

One spelling is MantEL, and refers to the shelf over a fireplace.

The other spelling is MantLE, it refers to a cloak worn by a prophet or leader and symbolizes a position of leadership and authority.

Many of you will recognize this word from the events of Elijah passing his mantle (authority and position) to Elisha as he was taken up into heaven in **2 Kings 2:13** (NKJV)
“He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan.”

There are two pertinent truths for you as a church to hear today and for you, Albin, to consider.

First: Receiving the Mantel

Second: The Mantel Responsibility

We begin with the

I. Receiving the mantle 2 Timothy 2:2 *the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses”*

In receiving the mantle of leadership, it is vital to remember

A. Those who came before

1) For Timothy, it was Paul

Their relationship can be seen in 3 stages:

* **The Parent stage v2a** *“And the things you have heard me say ...”* It is interesting the parenting style always has a component of TELLING – SAYING.

In both of Paul's letters to Timothy he addresses him as *“my true son”* (**1 & 2 Timothy 1:2**).

In **Acts 16** we learn HOW this young man from Lystra became Paul's spiritual child and joined him on the second missionary journey. On this trip, Timothy was Paul's assistant or apprentice and Paul began mentoring him from child to teen to young adult.

The next stage is

The Partner stage v2b *"in the presence of many witnesses ..."*

After some time with Paul, Timothy moved from son to partner or as Paul says in **Romans 16:21** *"Timothy, my co-worker"*

I began to experience this with you last summer, Albin, as you led the Prayer Station ministry at Challenge in Louisville. (But Albin, as you know my name for grandpa was spelled **DAD** and my name for you will always be spelled **DAD**).

One day your relationship with Pastor Jerry will be more partner than parent but for now listen and follow his guidance as he passes the ministry to you.

The last stage in Paul and Timothy's example is

The Promoter stage v2c *"... entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."*

Here is the responsibility every believer needs to emulate not just – Albin the "NEW pastor" – we are all to share or pass to others the good news of Jesus Christ.

I like the sign on the doors here as you leave the building "you are now entering your mission field."

Timothy was challenged by Paul to duplicate himself regarding the things he had learned so others could learn them as he had.

Our task as followers of Jesus Christ is to fulfill the Great Commission which begins with us living for the Lord so the next generation (**who is always watching**), will know how to serve the Lord as well.

Praise God! Paul shared his mantle with Timothy who passed it on to those who followed him who in turn passed it one to the next generation and **the chain has extended** to this service today where you, Albin, are receiving the mantle. And you, Bemidji Free Church, must remember your responsibility to share with others also.

Thinking of those who came before let me share a little of

2) Your new pastor's heritage

Albin, you have been blessed first with the godly examples

a) Greenberg example

Your grandpa Don carried the mantle of ministry. Though he considered joining Missionary Aviation Fellowship in the early years he instead chose to serve the Lord as a faithful businessman and a supportive elder at his church. He was also a consistent man of prayer.

b) Sterneman example

This mantle began with your Great Grandfather Fred Sterneman who as a young boy asked Jesus to be his Savior and Lord and then attended Bible College.

He preached and pastored in places like Hawley, Detroit Lakes, Nisswa, Wadena, Staples, Battle Lake, Hibbing, Sauk Rapides and even in Sebeka.

Your grandfather (my dad) said many times of his father that he was “a brilliant scholar and a strong preacher”. He was a man I remember as a prayer warrior who prayed for many, many people including my ministry and my family.

Then your grandfather Paul Sterneman) - he too was a preacher, church planter and a mold of leaders and young pastors (today some men he mentored are District Superintendents, others are vice presidents of denominations, one is even the president of denomination.) Your grandfather led and guided people with a life of prayer and a desire to keep Jesus Christ first as well as encourage others to do the same.

Yes, you have had godly grandparents and you also have had the model of your parents your mom and myself.

But now you have a

d) Johnson example

Pastor Jerry who began his ministry as youth pastor (at I believe Robbinsdale Baptist before a merger with Oak Grove Baptist and becoming Valley Baptist - is that right Pastor Jerry) then coming to serve here a Bemidji Free Church.

The point is your pastor, your leader also received a mantle of ministry - his responsibility is first to faithfully serve Jesus Christ, then to his family, next this church and now provide you an example to follow.

B. For yourself Albin

You have been called. I remember how Dr. Fred Polding laid his hands on you and prayed for you, then at Challenge in Ohio you prayed in that back stairwell giving your life to God's service.

Now you are here on staff at Bemidji Free church and you have the responsibility of leading others.

But remember, **you can't share what you don't live** – just having knowledge and speaking is not the same as living a life of integrity and love.

Receiving the mantle opens the door to the

II. Mantle responsibilities

2 Tim 2:2b *entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.*

A. Entrust - give away and share what you have received and acquired this is done as you

1) Teach – in one on one conversations / small group talks as well as sermons.

And as you

2) Train- here is where you (show, mentor, hang out and guide others) – specifically for you, Albin, this is now in the area of students and young adults.

Next responsibility is to

B. Release

1) Trust – Just as Jesus Christ sent out his disciples you will need to do this as well – having confidence in those you have taught and trained. But just trusting is not enough you will have to

2) Test – This requires accountability because what you **DO NOT** keep track of you really don't care about – (think back account; think hunting tools) just as you look after these things you **MUST** look after those you mentor, train, and release into ministry whether they are Sunday School teachers or small group leaders they must know you care.

Now Bemidji Free Church Pastor Jerry, Elders and most importantly you the congregation as your new pastor receives the mantle of leadership of Pastor and make sure you

- **Protect him** and

- **Pray for him**

- **But DON'T assume** he is going to do **YOUR** work – for we **ALL** as Christians have been entrusted and are qualified to do what Paul said in **2 Timothy 2:2** *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.*

But more importantly our Savior and Lord said in **Matthew 28:19–20** *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Take away:

So Church, take up your mantle of sharing with others the good news of Jesus Christ (salvation) and today celebrate as Albin receives the mantle of Pastor.

This sermon was preached at the Evangelical Free Church of Bemidji
on January 29, 2017 by Dr. Tom Sterneman