

## Introduction: The Mission of God

- Scripture demonstrates that all \_\_\_\_\_ work originates with God.
- God chooses to involve His \_\_\_\_\_ in the mission of proclaiming His salvation.

**Key Point:** Missions involves the work of both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in order that churches might be established who will then continue the work of God's mission.

## Paul, Titus, & the Work on Crete

Titus 1:4-5—<sup>4</sup>To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

<sup>5</sup>This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you...

### Paul & Titus

- Paul had a very close relationship with Titus (1:4)

"my true child" — This terminology is also used in both of Paul's letters to Timothy (1 & 2 Tim. 1:2)

⇒ Titus was a \_\_\_\_\_ by birth.

Gal. 2:3—But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.

"a common faith"

⇒ Titus was dispatched by Paul to go to \_\_\_\_\_ in order to follow up after they had received his first letter.

2 Cor. 8:3—As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.

**Key Point:** Titus played an important role in the life of the early church by \_\_\_\_\_ the scope of Paul's ministry through the preaching of the Gospel and equipping of the churches.

## The Ministry on Crete

- Paul was briefly on Crete during his first imprisonment. (Acts 27:1-14)
- It seems as though Paul returned to Crete with Titus after his release from his first imprisonment.

⇒ Paul then moved on, leaving Titus to finish the work of establishing the churches there.

Titus 1:5a—This is why I left you in Crete...

- Crete was a unique ministry context:

The Religious Background: (1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

The Cultural Background:

## The Work of Titus

- Titus was left in Crete to complete a specific task.

Titus 1:5—This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you...

⇒ Paul's decision to leave Titus in Crete was \_\_\_\_\_ → "to put what remained into order"

"put...into order"—ἐπιδιορθῶ (*epidiorthōō*)—To set right or to correct in addition.

- \* The root word for this term is ὀρθός (*orthos*), a noun that is found throughout the book of Proverbs (LXX) and is usually translated as "straight" or "upright."

Prov. 4:11—I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness ("straight tracks").

Prov. 11:6—The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the treacherous are taken captive by their lust.

Prov. 14:12—There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

⇒ Paul intended for Titus to accomplish this by certain \_\_\_\_\_ → "and appoint elders in every town"

"appoint"—καθίστημι (*kathistēmi*)—To assign a position of authority; to appoint or put in charge.

**Key Points:** (1) The appointing of elders would provide a \_\_\_\_\_ structure for the churches.

(2) The goal of this, however, was that the churches might come to \_\_\_\_\_ the truth of the Gospel both in what they believe and how they conduct themselves.

## Concluding Thoughts

1. The missional God of the Bible \_\_\_\_\_ Himself to mankind through His Word.

⇒ He \_\_\_\_\_ us in our idolatry.

Rom. 1:24-25—<sup>24</sup>Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,<sup>25</sup> because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

⇒ He calls us away from our idols by \_\_\_\_\_ Himself with them.

Titus 1:2-3—<sup>2</sup>in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began <sup>3</sup>and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior

2. The missional God of the Bible \_\_\_\_\_ His people in order to \_\_\_\_\_ them to His image so that they might serve effectively as His witnesses.

*Effective elder leadership is God's chosen means by which He accomplishes this in the church:*

1.

Titus 1:7-8—<sup>7</sup>For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain,<sup>8</sup> but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.

2.

Titus 1:9—<sup>9</sup>He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

## Questions for Reflection:

1. In what ways has God presented Himself to me by contrasting Himself with my idols?
2. When was the last time God corrected me informally through His Word? Formally through others?