

The first
sign of
civilisation



Timothy, Titus, Philemon: what makes a visible church to be church



Missions and the New Testament

- ▶ “Missions is the mother of theology”

1 Timothy and Titus

- ▶ 1 Timothy: order in the local church and how the local church should be governed
- ▶ Titus: the unbreakable link between faith and practice, belief and behavior

Timothy and Titus as missionaries

- ▶ Different personalities: God used them both
- ▶ “Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation.” Galatians 6:15
- ▶ “Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law...., so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law..., so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.” 1 Corinthians 9:19-22

2 Timothy and Philemon

- ▶ Deathbed letters
- ▶ Tone of Triumph: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith...” 2 Timothy 4:7
- ▶ Apostasy: “terrible times in the last days” 2 Timothy 3:1

Philemon: some mission themes

- ▶ Gospel work: often long, slow, painful before the breakthrough comes.
- ▶ The place of suffering: “Paul, a prisoner of Jesus...” vs 1

Pastor Robert



بِرُوحِكَ
الْأُولَى
16-15:2



How's this for an ad?

- ▶ “Blasting cold, blistering heat; career prospects zero, prison prospects good. Early death a possibility. Recognition from peers unlikely. Frontiers – come and join us!”

Not comfortable, but rewarding

- ▶ A wonderful message: “If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me.” vs 18. “So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me” vs 17
- ▶ Joyous results: a slave, a brother, a bishop

God goes ahead of us



The unfinished task

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=eIDraNUGerE