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Title: Send and Support Biblically Qualified Missionaries

Passage: Titus 1:4-9

Speaker: Matthew McCartney

Bio: Matthew has served overseas in missions for 12+ years and is now the Interim Director for Missions and Outreach at Trinity. He and his wife Emily have 8 children and live in Sanger, California.

Summary:

We are to support Gospel-centered and Biblically qualified men and women who:

I. faithfully live a godly life.

II. proclaim the excellencies of Christ in accordance with God's Word.

III. stand against those who stand contrary to it.

Key Truths:

- As believers in Christ, we are all called to participate in sharing the Gospel: both around us and around the world.
- Two options to participate in the Great Commission: 1) To go, or 2) To send.
- We have only two options. If you do not go, then you are sending. If you are not sending, then you go. Otherwise, disobedient.
- Whether we go or send, we should understand the qualifications for those who go. If sending, then we should pray and support Gospel-centered and Biblical people who will be prepared to teach and share sound doctrine to others.
- We are to relate to missionaries as one heart along with them.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- How am I to fulfill the Great Commission - am I to go or to stay as a faithful sender? Why?
- What's a takeaway from the sermon you can apply to your life?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

Introduction

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- The Great Commission from Jesus.
- The church is commissioned to tell all that Christ has done on what He has done.
 - Not optional but for all believers to fulfill.

- As believers in Christ, we are all called to participate in sharing the Gospel.
 - Around us.
 - Around the world.
- Two options to participate in the Great Commission:
 - To go
 - To send
- Note: only two options. If you do not go, then you are sending. If you are not sending, then you go.
 - Otherwise, disobedient.

Today, there are many who still do not know the greatness of God's name.

- Be regularly praying for missionaries.
- Even consider praying whether you yourself are to go to a foreign place.

Question for every believer:

How am I to fulfill the Great Commission - am I to go or to stay as a faithful sender?

Autobiographical testimony

- Spent junior year in Russia
- Served 4 years in Russia
- 7 years in Turkey

Whether we go or send, we should understand the qualifications for those who go.

- Support Gospel-centered and Biblical people who will be prepared to teach and share sound doctrine to others.

Passage:

Titus 1:4-9

To Titus, my true child in a common faith:

Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

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— if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. 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, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. 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.

EXPOSITION

This passage concerns qualifications for elders.

- Other passage on elder qualifications: 1 Timothy 3
- Why review this passage for missionaries?

- We should be sending our best, who are grounded in the Bible.
- Contrast: too many have gone only based on their own desire (“I sense the Lord calling me...”)
- The missionary task is a grand task: proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ who have never heard of His name.

1 Timothy 3:1

- Desire is important but it’s not the only qualification.

I. We are to support Gospel-centered and Biblically qualified men and women who faithfully live a godly life.

Titus 1:7-8

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, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.

- Biblical characteristics are to be evident and seen by others.
- While passage concerns position of an elder, which are for men, this passage concerns qualifications about character that applies to both men and women.

Key character qualities:

- Humility
- Focused on the task of proclaiming Biblical doctrine.

We live in a world that is watching us. Our character matters.

- “must be above approach”
- “Must not be arrogant...”
 - Contrast: poor character discredit the Gospel. Those who watch and see will see nothing different.

II. We are to support Gospel-centered and Biblically qualified men and women who proclaim the excellencies of Christ in accordance with God’s Word.

Titus 1:9a

He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine...

Biographical story

- When initially arrived in Turkey, the first team was Biblically solid.
- But then had to change to a different team who had partnered with a missionary from Bethel Church who denied the deity of Christ.
- And later came across another missionary who was teaching the “insider movement”.
 - Insider movement creates a wide gate where Scripture is twisted:

- People are free to draw their own conclusions after seeking God sincerely.
- Muslims do not need to forsake their identity. One can still go to mosque and read the Koran but only focus on the truths by Jesus.
- But Islam does not teach the love of God.
- But sound doctrine is grounded in the Bible by which we are bounded by what it says and how it is revealed.
 - We do not have the authority to change the meaning of the Bible.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- God calls us to follow Jesus unconditionally as He has revealed Himself in the Bible.
 - Deity of Christ.
 - Salvation through Christ.
 - Return of Christ.
- We are bound to proclaim Jesus as He has revealed Himself.

Twisted doctrine: We do not need to preach the cross because it is offensive.

- But see:

1 Corinthians 1:23

but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

- Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins.
 - The cross is the center of the Gospel.

III. We are to support Gospel-centered and Biblically qualified men and women who proclaim the excellencies of Christ in accordance with God's Word and who stand against those who stand contrary to it.

Titus 1:9

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.

Twisted perspective of the lost:

- If I am to be a Christian, I must stop being a Muslim as well as my ethnicity.
 - But with the insider movement, I can still be a Muslim and yet merely pray to Jesus during prayers in mosque.

Acts 4:32

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

- we are to relate to missionaries as one heart along with them.
- missionaries are not separate from us but as part of us.

What to do?

- Pray about being sent.

- Pray for missionaries to live godly lives and proclaim the Gospel and stand contrary to false doctrines.