

**Introduction –Feb 23 1945 – The raising of the Flag on Iwo Jima?** - one of the fiercest battles in WW2 against the Japanese imperial army on Mt Suribachi on the Island of Iwo Jima- Joe Rosenthal took the image early in the 5 week battle- nearly missing the shot – and moments before a volley of gunfire as an act of anger and retribution for raising the flag.

Paul wrote three letters that are commonly referred to as PE (1-2 Tim and Titus). In 1 Tim. Paul is charging and entrusting Timothy in a personal letter concerning the Church at Ephesus to reclaim the Christ identity that it was once committed to. The church at Ephesus has been invaded by the culture in Eph. Now the church is suffering from the effects of wrong teaching and immoral behaviors from many -leading and attending. Unlike Titus 1:5, Timothy in Ephesus already had established leadership (elders, deacons etc). However they were corrupt and troubled. ex

1 Tim 1:3 – teaching strange doctrines

1 Tim 1:4- discussing myths and genealogies

1 Tim 1:6 – Fruitless discussions

1 Tim 1:7 – lacking understanding and asserting themselves

In 1 Tim 2 Paul addressed influences in the church culture that had crept in through false beliefs and sloppy habits, but now in Chapter 3 Paul turns to directly deal with the Character that should be present in those that are called to lead as elders, pastors and overseers etc. He is reclaiming the identity that Christ has called His church to be. We can see Paul "Re-Planting the flag" in multiple areas

Today's emphasis is taken from 1Tim 3:1-7. READ

## I. Vs 1– Paul re-plants the flag by taking back territory in Ephesus in regard to the value and importance of church leadership.

*This list(2-7) should always follow those who desire to be in pastoral leadership, elder, deacon along with those who profess Christianity as their faith. So, none of us are left out of this message*

*Ill never forget Carlos Bello telling me one night after getting home from some punk rock concert in the 1984-85 – you are going to be a Christian preacher one day! That day a flag was planted!*

### 1. Re-planting the flag of value of Christian leadership– It is a "trustworthy statement" –

1. Uses this phrase to emphasize "monumental importance"

uses this term 5x's (1 Tim 1:15, 3:1, 4:9, 2Tim 2:11, Titus 3:8)

2. Phrase only used in PE – toward the end of Paul's life – Each example was used like a formula to establish a doctrinal truth – a credal statement "Jesus came into the world to save sinners"

*These credal statements would have been repeated to each other as markers of faith in conversations.*

3. 3:1 was used a bit differently – it was to "Raise the status of this vocation"

It was not too popular then- persecution, danger / now is a very different time

4. It was to become a vocation that was honorable and associated with good character and virtuous living- Raising the standard – no wonder vs 2-7 followed!

## 2. Re-Planting the flag in your personal calling: How do I know if I'm called? "Aspire to be"

1. **All are called in Christ** – I don't want you to check out because this is not your vocation

1 Co. 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, <sup>1a</sup>saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:

2. OT – God called , NT – Jesus personally called, Now - Holy Spirit calls-"through desire"
3. Aspire- 'Orego – It's the idea to reach up for something beyond (aspire vs inspire)

1 Co. 9:24,26 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win....Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim

## 3. Re-planting the flag of Christian servant-leadership- "Office of overseer" -

1. Most of this list speaks to Character over function – this list does not speak of a list of pastoral duties – other than to teach, its priority is a standard of Character
2. "Overseer" -episkope – same as elder/pastor – one who spends their life "watching over"

Heb. 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. <sup>1a</sup>Let them do this with joy and not <sup>1b</sup>with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

1pet. 5:2-5 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; <sup>3</sup> nor yet as lording it over <sup>1a</sup>those allotted to your charge, but <sup>1b</sup>proving to be examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading <sup>1c</sup>crown of glory. <sup>5</sup> You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

- a. Shepherds , not domineering – ruling and responsibility- Teaching responsibilities

## 4. Re-planting the flag of cultural perception- "It's a fine work"

1. "Fine work"-Kalos – means beauty – Paul was borrowing a very well understood concept from Greek culture – which developed 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> BC. The concept developed from a single-dimension definition of beauty to a much deeper meaning. This ideal of KALOS beauty gained traction from the texts of ancient philosophers. It finally was defined as both physical attributes and virtues of the soul (Character)
2. Paul was not only attempting to establish the role of Christian leader/pastor/elder as simply moral and virtuous. Paul was re-planting the flag by comparing Christian leadership to those God's and demi-gods in the culture – This was 'Leadership KALOS'

**Paul was encouraging Timothy to RE-think Christian leadership!**

Questions for connection

- Do you need to Re-think Christian leadership?

- Have you been exposed poor models and wrong behaviors in Christian leadership?
- Have you been tempted to throw the baby out with the bath water?

## **II. 5 marines and 1 navy core-man planted the flag on Mt Suribachi -Iwo Jima – Using a drainpipe some wire and the American Flag.**

The results and effect of this 1 action released an encouragement from surrounding troops – tracer rounds, rockets, shouts, horns

The response of the American soldiers was overwhelming enthusiasm as soldiers planted the flag in the soil

***In what are in your life do you need to replant the flag of faith and reclaim your identity in Christ!***

**It does not take much to plant- just a decision to serve Jesus!**

1. Planting your Flag- will need to happen over and over at different times in your life.
2. Planting the flag -speaks to a total commitment (not perfection) -all in!
3. Planting the flag – establishes your identity as a Christ follower.
4. Planting the flag – Is a commitment to a mindset of victory regardless the price
5. Planting the flag- brings joy and hope to others
6. Planting the flag- will attract enemy attention
7. Planting the flag- will release the grace and peace of God in your life.

## **III. Questions for action!**

- A. Do you have areas in your life where you need to plant the flag?
- B. Is the Lord tugging on your heart to pursue Christian leadership?
- c. Do you feel you have been disqualified for some reason?