

## Partnership In Ministry

- ❖ II Cor. 8:23 – *“Titus, he is my partner”* (a sharer, an associate)
- ❖ The word only appears 3x in the NT (Luke 5:7,10; Philemon 1:17)

### Background

- The saints in Jerusalem were in great need. They experienced great poverty (Acts 11:28 – *“a great dearth”* or famine) and great persecution (Acts 12:1 – *“Herod stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church”*)
- Acts 11:29-30 – *“to send relief (aid) unto the brethren which dwelt in Judea”*
- Rom. 15:25-26 – *“to minister unto the saints...to make a certain contribution (partnership, participation) for the poor saints which are a Jerusalem”*
- I Cor. 16:1-4 – *“the collection (a contribution) for the saints...to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem”*
- In II Cor. 8, Paul uses the pattern of giving set by the churches of Macedonia (8:1) to challenge the church in Corinth to be gracious and generous in their giving:
  - *“deep poverty...riches of their liberality”* (c. 2)
  - *“beyond their power they were willing”* (v.3)
  - *“the fellowship of the ministering to the saints”* (v.4)
  - *“first gave their own selves to the Lord”* (v.5)

## Titus

- Paul sent Titus to Corinth (8:6) to help the church finish and fulfill the commitment they had been willing to make one year before. (8:10-11)
- Another unnamed brother (8:18) went with Titus to assist him as he assisted Paul.

1. Titus shared the same **burden** that Paul did
  - *“But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.”* (8:16)
2. Titus shared the same **vision** that Paul did
  - *“For indeed he accepted the exhortation; but being more forward...”* (8:17)
3. Titus shared the same **passion** that Paul did
  - *“whose praise is in the gospel”* (8:18)
  - *“to the glory of the same Lord”* (8:19)
4. Titus shared the same **commitment** that Paul did
  - *“of his own accord he went unto you”* (8:17)

It was for these reasons that Paul was able to say, *“he is my partner and fellowhelper”* (8:23). These men labored and served together in their own unique ways. As a result they were more effective and productive in their endeavor for the Lord.

## Working Together

The Apostle Paul placed great value on those who partnered with him in service and even in suffering.

- ❖ *"our dear fellowservant"* – Epaphras (Col. 1:7)
- ❖ *"fellowservant in the Lord"* – Tychicus (Col. 4:7)
  - \*literally "a co-slave, servants of the same Master"
  
- ❖ *"Fellowlaborer"* – Philemon (Philemon 1:1)
- ❖ *"Fellowlaborer in the gospel of Christ"* –  
Timotheus (I Thess. 3:2)
- ❖ \**"my fellowlaborers"* – Marcus, Aristarchus,  
Demas, Lucas (Philemon 1:24)
  - \*literally "a co-laborer"
  - \**"other my fellowlaborers"* – Phil. 4:3
  
- ❖ *"my fellowprisoner"* – Aristarchus (Col. 4:10)
- ❖ *"fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus"* – Epaphras  
(Philemon 1:23)
  - \*literally "a co-captive"
  - \**"my fellowprisoners"* – Rom. 16:7
  
- ❖ *"Fellowsoldier"* – Epaphroditus (Phil. 2:25)
- ❖ *"our fellowsoldier"* – Archippus (Philemon 1:2)
  - \*literally "a co-campaigner, associate in Christian toil"

❖ *"Fellowhelper"* – Titus (II Cor. 8:23)

\*literally "a co-laborer"

❖ *"Fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God"* –

a list of names in verses 7-15 (Col. 4:11)

\*literally "a co-laborer"

Paul never saw the work of the Lord as his alone. He was very dependent upon those who were with him, and he highly valued their part in making the work of God happen as it should.