

A scenic autumn landscape featuring a pond in the foreground, surrounded by trees with vibrant orange, red, and yellow foliage. A white arrow with a black outline points to the right, positioned in the center of the image.

Welcome To
Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28

“Titus, The Island of Crete, and The Task at Hand”

Titus 1:4,5

September 20, 2015

Titus 1:4-5

- 4 To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.
- 5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,

Who Is Titus?

1. Titus became a believer through Paul.
“4 To Titus, my true child in a common faith:”
2. When Titus was written Titus had known Paul for approx. 20 years.
3. Titus is not mentioned in the book of Acts. Twice in the book of Galatians. Once in 2 Tim., once in Titus and nine times in 2 Corinthians.
4. Titus was caught in a fierce controversy at the Jerusalem Council. It involved whether the gospel is by faith alone or faith plus circumcision plus ceremonial law. The false teachers (Judaizers) insisted on Titus being circumcised if he was truly saved. Paul used Titus as an example of one who was a Gentile believer, who was not circumcised, who was transformed by the gospel, who loved the Lord, who was a committed follower of Jesus Christ, who loved the Word and was passionate about his faith. Therefore circumcision and ceremony are not necessary for salvation.

The Jerusalem Council

Acts 15:1,2,6,7

- 1 Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."
- 2 And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.
- 6 The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter.
- 7 After there had been much debate,

Gal 2:1-7

- 1 Then after an interval of fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also.
- 2 It was because of a revelation that I went up; and I submitted to them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but I did so in private to those who were of reputation, for fear that I might be running, or had run, in vain.
- 3 But not even Titus, who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.
- 4 But it was because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage.
- 5 But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.
- 6 But from those who were of high reputation (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality) — well, those who were of reputation contributed nothing to me.

5. Paul was the primary teacher of Titus but also Barnabas, Peter, James and John.
6. Paul also sent Titus to another controversial place – Corinth. This is a church that was a gigantic mess: carnality, immorality, law suites, arrogance, licentiousness, libertarian, worldly, driven by emotion.

2 Cor 8:23

23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you;

2 Cor 8:16-17

16 But thanks be to God who puts the same earnestness on your behalf in the heart of Titus.

17 For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest, he has gone to you of his own accord.

7. Titus therefore was battle tested.

- He knew what it was to be in the heat of the battle.
- He was not afraid of controversy.
- He learned it is more important to fear God than to fear men.
- He had learned that truth is important.
- He saw that you do not compromise.
- He developed biblical convictions.
- He learned how to work independently.

Titus 1:4-5

- 4 To Titus, my true child in a common faith: **Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.**
- 5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,

Titus 1:4-5

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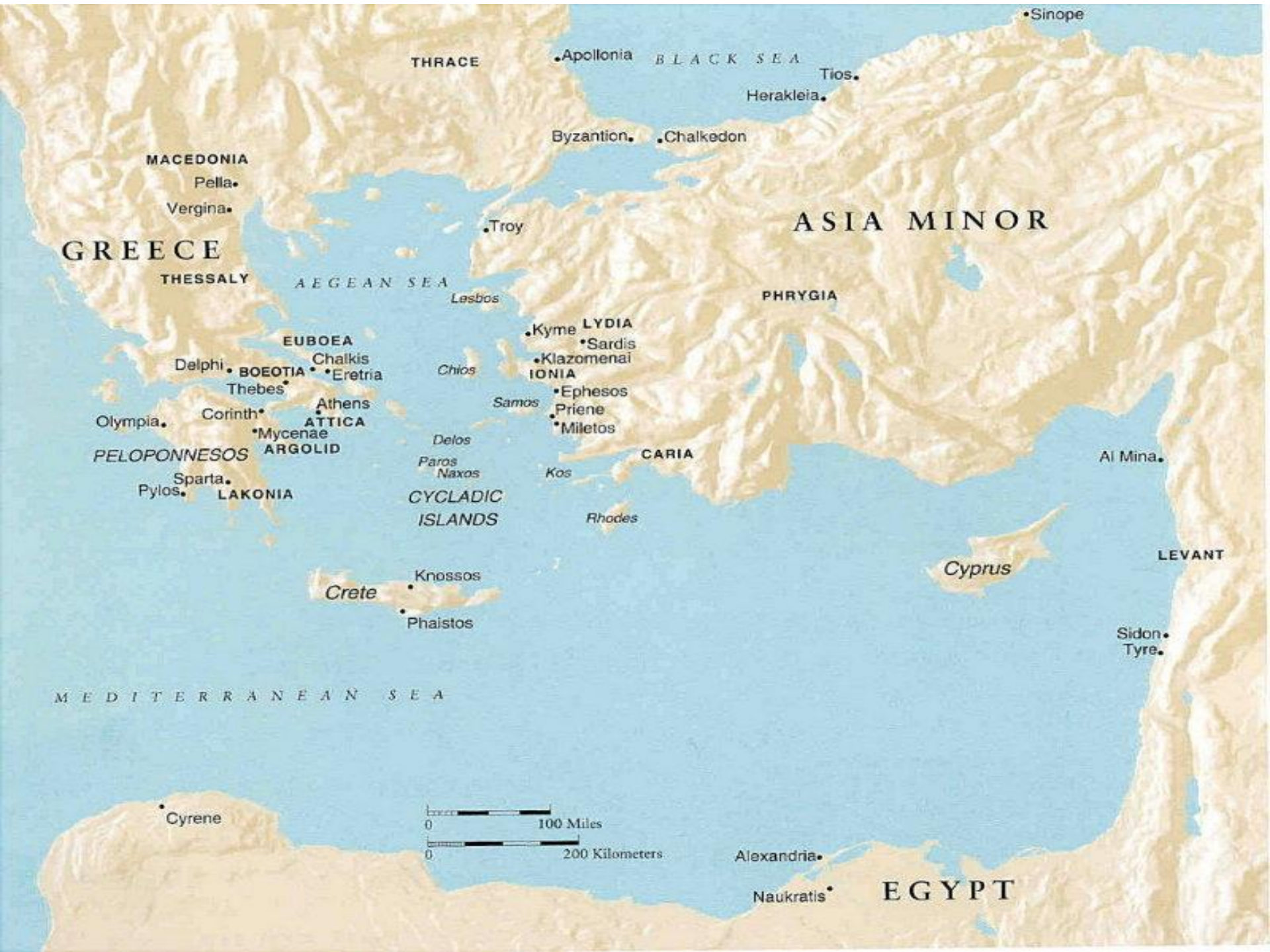
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WHERE IS THE ISLAND OF CRETE?

1. The largest island in Greece and the fifth largest island in the Mediterranean Sea.
2. 160 miles long.
3. 7.5 - 35 miles wide.
4. With a coastline of 650 mi
5. Snowfall is common on the mountains between November and May.
6. Crete is the most populous island in Greece with a population of more than 600,000 people.
7. Churches were formed on Crete as the result of Pentecost and the resultant spread of the gospel on Crete.

Acts 2:9-11

- 9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,
11 Cretans and Arabs



GREECE

ASIA MINOR

MACEDONIA
Pella
Vergina

THRACE
Apollonia
Byzantion
Chalkedon
BLACK SEA
Tios
Herakleia

THESSALY

AEGEAN SEA

PHRYGIA

EUBOEA
Delphi
Thebes
Corinth
Olympia
PELOPONNESOS
Sparta
Pylos
LAKONIA
BOEOTIA
Chalkis
Eretria
ATHENS
Mythenae
ARGOLID

Troy
Lesbos
Chios
Samos
Delos
Paros
Naxos
Kos
Rhodes
Kyme
Sardis
Klazomenai
IONIA
Ephesos
Priene
Miletos

CYCLADIC ISLANDS

CARIA

Al Mina

Crete

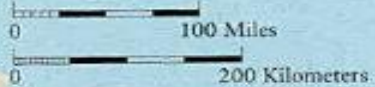
Cyprus

LEVANT

Sidon
Tyre

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Cyrene



Alexandria

Naukratis

EGYPT



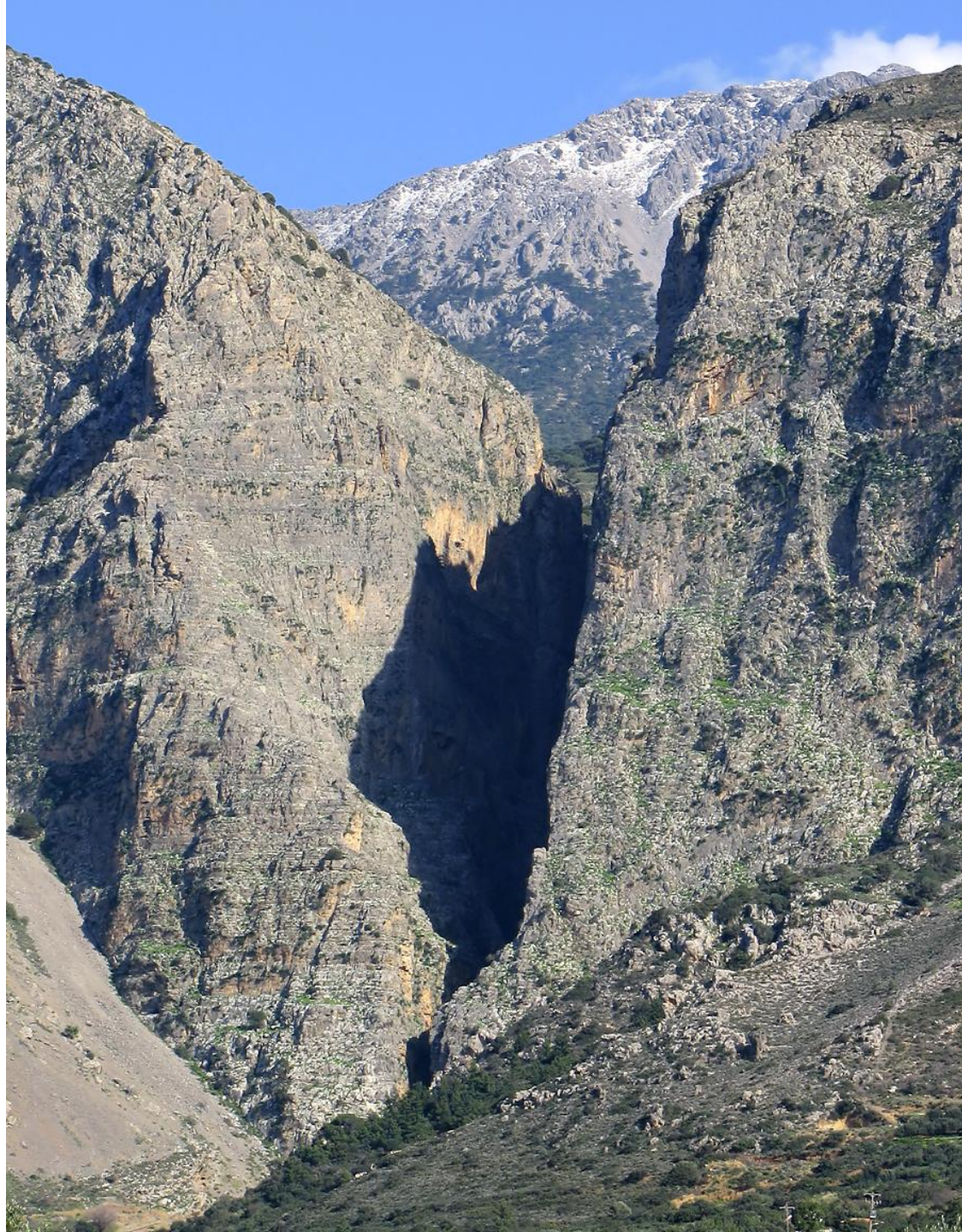


























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The Task at Hand

5 “that you would set in order what remains”

“set in order”

επιδιορθωω

επι	δι	ορθωω
upon	through	to set straight

“what remains”

λειπω

absent, lacking

“set straight what is out of place,
what is absent, what is lacking.”

Where does Titus start?

4 possible choices:

1. The culture: evil, sinful, anti-God, anti-church, anti-morality.
2. False teachers: who are bringing false doctrine into the church.
3. Believers in the church: carnality, unbiblical practices, and a love for the world.
4. Leadership in the Church.
- 5 “and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,”

Ezek 34:1-10

- 1 Then the word of the Lord came to me saying,
- 2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy and say to those shepherds, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Woe, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flock?"
- 3 "You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat sheep without feeding the flock.
- 4 "Those who are sickly you have not strengthened, the diseased you have not healed, the broken you have not bound up, the scattered you have not brought back, nor have you sought for the lost; but with force and with severity you have dominated them.
- 5 "They were scattered for lack of a shepherd, and they became food for every beast of the field and were scattered.

“It is not the duty of any pastor to build up his ministry. It is his duty to build up his flock. We never find that Peter or Paul spent their time in forming “Dr. Apostle Peter’s International Mission” or enlarging “Bishop Paul’s World Harvest Ministry”.

- David Anderson

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- 5 "They were scattered for lack of a shepherd, and they became food for every beast of the field and were scattered.

6 "My flock wandered through all the mountains and on every high hill; My flock was scattered over all the surface of the earth, and there was no one to search or seek for them."""

7 Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord:

8 "As I live," declares the Lord God, "surely because My flock has become a prey, My flock has even become food for all the beasts of the field for lack of a shepherd, and My shepherds did not search for My flock, but rather the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock;

9 therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord:

10 'Thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will demand My sheep from them and make them cease from feeding sheep. So the shepherds will not feed themselves anymore, but I will deliver My flock from their mouth, so that they will not be food for them."""

Jer 23:1-4

- 1 "Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture!" declares the Lord.
- 2 Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel concerning the shepherds who are tending My people: "You have scattered My flock and driven them away, and have not attended to them; behold, I am about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds," declares the Lord.
- 3 "Then I Myself will gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and bring them back to their pasture, and they will be fruitful and multiply.
- 4 "I will also raise up shepherds over them and they will tend them; and they will not be afraid any longer, nor be terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the Lord.

Hos 4:1-6

1 Listen to the word of the Lord, O sons of Israel,
For the Lord has a case against the inhabitants of the land,
Because there is no faithfulness or kindness
Or knowledge of God in the land.

2 There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing and adultery.
They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed.

3 Therefore the land mourns,
And everyone who lives in it languishes
Along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky,
And also the fish of the sea disappear.

4 Yet let no one find fault, and let none offer reproof;
For your people are like those who contend with the priest.

5 So you will stumble by day,
And the prophet also will stumble with you by night;
And I will destroy your mother.

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.
Because you have rejected knowledge,
I also will reject you from being My priest.
Since you have forgotten the law of your God,
I also will forget your children.

Jer 14:14-15

14 Then the Lord said to me, "The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of their own minds.

15 "Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the prophets who are prophesying in My name, although it was not I who sent them.

Isa 28:7-8

7 And these also reel with wine and stagger from strong drink:

The priest and the prophet reel with strong drink,
They are confused by wine, they stagger from strong drink;

They reel while having visions,

They totter when rendering judgment.

8 For all the tables are full of filthy vomit, without a single clean place.

Elders

1. ***Elders were the leadership in the churches of the first century. Leadership wasn't complicated.***
2. ***Pastors, elders, overseers – all the same office.***

Acts 20:17-28

17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.

28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

3. ***No set number. If you have that desire to be an elder and you meet the qualifications, you can be an elder.***

1 Tim 3:1

3 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.

4. ***One elder may have the predominate teaching/preaching role in the church.***

Acts 2:14

14 But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them

5. *A ruling Board of Elders promotes the biblical concept of the Priesthood of all believers.*

1 Peter 2:5,9

5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood,

9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION,

6. *Elders are not leaders who dictate or “lord it over” but their role is to serve the believers in the congregation.*

1 Peter 5:1-3

1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,

2 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;

3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

7. *Elders have no authority in themselves but their authority is derived to the degree that they use God's Word, which is the only authority in the Church.*

Rom 13:1

1 For there is no authority except from God,

8. *The role of the Elders is 2-fold:*

1. They are to teach, defend, guard, and protect the authority in the Church – God's Word.
2. They are to pray for the flock and be examples to the flock.

Acts 6:4

4 "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."