

THE IMPLICATIONS OF PAUL'S CONCEPT OF *SKENOPOIIA* TO THE
CURRENT PERCEPTIONS ON BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTRY AMONG
THE CHURCHES OF THE CONVENTION OF PHILIPPINE
BAPTIST CHURCHES IN WESTERN VISAYAS

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This section sets forth three basic areas: the research problem and its setting, the importance of the study, and the research methodology.

The Research Problem and Its Setting

The research problem and its setting cover the statement of the problem, sub-problems, limits of the problem, definition of terms, and basic assumptions.

The Statement of the Problem

This dissertation seeks to explore the following problem: What are the implications of Paul's concept of *skenopoiia* to the current perceptions on bi-vocational ministry among the churches of the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches in Western Visayas?

The Sub-Problems

The first sub-problem is as follows: What is Paul's concept of *skenopoiia*?

The second sub-problem is as follows: What are the current perceptions on bi-vocational ministry among the churches of the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches in Western Visayas?

The third sub-problem is as follows: What implications can be drawn from Paul's concept of *skenopoiia* to the current perceptions on bi-vocational ministry among the churches of the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches in Western Visayas?

The Limits of the Problem

This research sought to delineate Paul's concept of *skenopoiia* and its implications to the current perceptions on bi-vocational ministry among the churches of the Convention of the Philippine Baptist Churches¹ in Western Visayas. This study was limited to the CPBC churches in the province of Negros Occidental and the four provinces of the island of Panay, namely, Aklan, Antique, Capiz, and Iloilo. The research focused on the Book of Acts and on the Pauline Epistles that have direct bearing on Paul as a preacher and tentmaker. The primary texts that were

¹Hereafter referred to as CPBC.

surveyed were as follows: Acts 18:1-4, 20:34-35; 1 Cor 9:12-18; 1 Thess 2:9; and 2 Thess 3:3-9.

Furthermore, the limit of this research focused on the *kasapulanans* in the Visayas only. The CPBC is composed of ten *kasapulanans*. There are three *kasapulanans* in Luzon, five in Visayas, and two in Mindanao. The perceptions gathered, therefore, were those of the respondents coming from the *kasapulanans* in the Visayas referred to in this section. Additionally, the implications that were identified were only derived from the same *kasapulanans* and in no way attempt to relate them to the perceptions of *kasapulanans* in Luzon and Mindanao.

The Definition of Terms

Skenopoiia refers to "tentmaking." This term describes the occupation of Aquila, Pricilla, and Paul (Acts 18:3). Etymologically, it combines the two Greek words *skene* and *poiia* which means "the pitching of a tent."² This term is taken to allude to the modern concept of "tentmaking" and bi-vocational ministry in this study.

²William Arndt and Wilbur Gingrich, *A Greek Lexicon and Other Early Christian Literature*, trans. Walter Bauer (London, England: University of Cambridge Press, 1968), 762.