

A Review of Al Tizon's
Whole and Reconciled: Gospel, Church, and Mission in a Fractured World
By Martin Cho

Holistic mission has been widely conceived as the attempt to reintegrate the two sides of mission that have divided the modern Protestant church: evangelism and social justice. Al Tizon's *Whole and Reconciled: Gospel, Church and Mission in a Fractured World* by Baker Academic (2018) is a powerfully insightful new contribution to the debate. Tizon refers to the "infamous fundamentalist-modernist split in North American Protestantism," but instead of a simplistic piling on of social justice issues to evangelism efforts (or vice versa), Tizon completely reframes the concept of holistic mission through the paradigm of *reconciliation*. He states that the purpose of his writing is to "advance the meaning of holistic mission, to build on the evangelism and social justice affirmation, by understanding the ministry of reconciliation as the new whole in (w)holistic mission" (xvii).

Tizon's own background makes him well qualified to write on this topic. He served as a missionary in the Philippines for ten years, received a PhD in Missiology from the Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley, CA), and currently serves as the Affiliate Associate Professor of Missional and Global Leadership at North Park Theological Seminary (Chicago, IL) and the Executive Minister of Serve Globally, the international ministries arm of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Tizon constructs his argument in four parts. Part 1 paints a picture of the "Whole World" in which Christians seek to minister. Challenges to holistic mission exist in both the modern trends of globalization and the past mistakes of mission, such as Christendom and colonialism. His treatment of colonialism is an uncomfortable yet necessary look at the tragic mistakes of mission history. Furthermore, his insight into the concept of Christendom (chapter 2) holds crucial

relevance for the ways that today's Christians seek to build God's Kingdom through power and politics instead of gospel ministry. This chapter alone makes the book worth buying as it reveals the misdirected motivations that are driving much of the American Evangelical church today.

Part 2 takes a deeper look at the very gospel that holistic mission claims to spread. Christians are more often spreading false gospels and half gospels. For example, the "Gospel of Personal Salvation" (72) is preached by much of the Evangelical church, yet Tizon categorizes it as a half gospel, rooted in a Gnostic prioritization of soul over body. Sharp insights such as these reveal the false and half gospels in Christianity today so that Tizon can then present the "Whole Gospel" framed as reconciliation.

Tizon continues to build his argument in Part 3 by elaborating the sociological, theological and ecclesiological implications of holistic reconciliation mission, the "Whole Church," and Part 4 with the practical outworking of reconciliation as the "Whole Mission." Reconciliation fulfills the Great Commission as a Whole Commission by reconciling not only in the horizontal dimension within humanity, and not only the vertical dimension between humanity and God, but in the circular dimension as well, between God, humanity, and creation.

Through his paradigm of reconciliation, Tizon goes far beyond the past debate between evangelism and social justice to present an entirely new and powerful way of ministering the whole gospel.