

THE CONTINUATION OF THE BOOK OF ACTS 10

ACTS 20:14

14 And when he met with us at Assos, we took him in, and came to Mitylene.

ACTS 20:15

15 And we sailed thence, and came the next day over against Chios;

and the next day we arrived at Samos, and tarried at Trogyllium; and the next day we came to Miletus.

ACTS 20:16

16 For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia:

for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.

ACTS 20:13

13 And we went before to ship, and sailed unto Assos, there intending to take in Paul:

for so had he appointed, minding himself to go afoot.

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16 For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia:

for he hastened, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.

ACTS 20:17

17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the *ELDERS of the church.

ELDERS: GREEK LEXICON -- STRONG'S NUMBER 4245

presbuteros {pres-boo'-ter-os}
advanced in life, an elder, a senior; forefathers;
a term of rank or office, among the Christians,

those who presided over the assemblies (or churches) The NT uses the term bishop, elders, and presbyters interchangeably

PHILIPPIANS 1:1

1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the *BISHOPS and deacons:

BISHOPS: GREEK LEXICON -- STRONG'S NUMBER 1985

episkopos {ep-is'-kop-os}
an overseer, a man charged with the duty of seeing that things to be done by others are done rightly,

any curator, guardian or superintendent; head or overseer of any Christian church

ACTS 14:23

23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

ACTS 16:4

4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.

ACTS 20:28

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers,

to *FEED the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

FEED: GREEK LEXICON -- STRONG'S NUMBER 4165

poimaino {poy-mah'-ee-no}

to feed, to tend a flock, keep sheep, to rule; govern: to furnish pasture for food;

to nourish: to supply the requisites for the soul's need

The tasks of a Near Eastern shepherd were:

to watch for enemies trying to attack the sheep

to defend the sheep from attackers

to heal the wounded and sick sheep

to find and save lost or trapped sheep

to love them, sharing their lives and so earning their trust.

TITUS 1:5

5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

TITUS 1:6

6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

TITUS 1:7

7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

TITUS 1:8

8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

TITUS 1:9

9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to *EXHORT and to *CONVINCE the gainsayers.

EXHORT: GREEK LEXICON -- STRONG'S NUMBER 3870

parakaleo {par-ak-al-eh'-o}

summon, to address, speak to, instruction, to instruct, teach

CONVINCE: GREEK LEXICON -- STRONG'S NUMBER 1651

elegcho {el-eng'-kho}

reprove, rebuke, tell (one's) fault, generally with a suggestion of shame of the person convicted;

by conviction to bring to the light, to expose
by word, to reprehend severely, chide,

197-2 PERGAMEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.5

Now the truth of the matter is the word 'elder' signifies who the person is, while the word 'bishop' signifies the office of the same man. The elder is the man.

Bishop is the office of the man. 'Elder' always has and always will refer simply to a man's chronological age in the Lord. He is an elder, not because he is elected or ordained, etc.,

but because he IS OLDER. He is more seasoned, trained, not a novice, reliable because of experience and long standing proof of his Christian experience.

But no, the bishops did not stick to the epistles of Paul, but rather they went to Paul's account of the time he called the elders from Ephesus to Miletus in Acts 20.

In verse 17 the record states, "elders" were called and then in verse 28 they are called overseers (bishops).

And these bishops, (no doubt political minded and anxious for power) insisted that Paul had given the meaning that 'overseers' were more than the local elder with official capacity only in his own church.

To them a bishop was now one with extended authority over many local leaders. Such a concept was neither Scriptural nor historical, yet even a man of the stature of Polycarp leaned toward such organization.

Thus, that which started as a deed in the first age was made a literal doctrine and so it is today. Bishops still claim power to control men and deal with them as they desire,

placing them where they so will in the ministry. This denies the leadership of the Holy Ghost Who said, "Separate Me Paul and Barnabas for the work where-unto I have called them" This is anti-Word and anti-Christ.

Matthew 20:25-28,

"But Jesus called them unto Him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

But it shall not be so among you; but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Matthew 23:8-9,

"But be not ye called Rabbi: for One is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for One is your Father, Which is in heaven."

ACTS 20:17

17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

ACTS 20:18

18 And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia,

after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

ACTS 20:19

19 Serving the Lord with all *HUMILITY of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

HUMILITY: GREEK LEXICON -- STRONG'S NUMBER 5012

tapeinophrosune {tap-i-nof-ros-oo'-nay}

humbleness of mind, lowliness of mind, the having a humble opinion of one's self;

a deep sense of one's (moral) littleness; modesty, humility, lowliness of mind

EPHESIANS 4:1

1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

EPHESIANS 4:2

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

PHILIPPIANS 2:3

3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

COLOSSIANS 3:12

12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

I PETER 5:5

5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility:

for God *RESISTETH the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

RESISTETH: GREEK LEXICON -- STRONG'S NUMBER 498

antitassomai {an-tee-tas'-som-ahee}
oppose (one's) self, to range in battle against,

PROUD: GREEK LEXICON -- STRONG'S NUMBER 5244

huperephanos {hoop-er-ay'-fan-os}
showing one's self above others, overtopping, conspicuous above others, pre-eminent,

with an overweening estimate of one's means or merits, despising others or even treating them with contempt, haughty

I PETER 5:6

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

ACTS 20:19

19 Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

ACTS 20:20

20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,

ACTS 20:21

21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

ACTS 20:22

22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

ACTS 20:23

23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

ACTS 20:24

24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy,

and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

ACTS 20:25

25 And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

II TIMOTHY 4:9

9 Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:

II TIMOTHY 4:10

10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

I TIMOTHY 1:3

3 As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

II TIMOTHY 1:15

15 This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.

II TIMOTHY 1:16

16 The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain:

II TIMOTHY 1:17

17 But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me.

II TIMOTHY 1:18

18 The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.

II TIMOTHY 4:11

11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

II TIMOTHY 4:12

12 And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.