

THE CHURCH 16

ACTS 20:26

26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.

ACTS 20:27

27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

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.

ACTS 20:29

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

ACTS 20:30

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

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.

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:

I TIMOTHY 3:2

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

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;

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

God has never placed His church in the hands of an elected leadership which moves with political mindedness. He has placed His church in the care of God-ordained, Spirit-filled,

Word-living men who lead the people through feeding them the Word. He has not separated the people into classes so that the masses are led by a holy priesthood. It is true that the leadership must be holy, but then so must be the whole congregation.

Now this doctrine actually started as a deed in the first age. It appears that the problem lay in two words: 'elders' (presbyters) and 'overseers' (bishops). Though Scripture shows that there are several elders in each church,

some began (Ignatius among them) to teach that the idea of a bishop was one of preeminence or authority and control over the elders.

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.

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.

JEREMIAH 3:15

15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

JEREMIAH 23:4

4 And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD.

I PETER 5:2

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

I PETER 5:3

3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

I PETER 5:4

4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

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.

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.

TITUS 2:14

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a *PECULIAR people, zealous of good works.

PECULIAR: GREEK LEXICON -- STRONG'S NUMBER 4041

periousios {per-ee-oo'-see-os}

that which is one's own, belonging to one's possessions: a people selected by God from the other nations for his own possession

I PETER 2:9

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a *PECULIAR people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

PECULIAR: GREEK LEXICON -- STRONG'S NUMBER 4047

peripoiesis {per-ee-poy'-ay-sis}

purchased possession, to obtain, saving, a preservation, one's own property

I PETER 1:18

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

I PETER 1:19

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

I PETER 1:20

20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

I TIMOTHY 2:5

5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

I TIMOTHY 2:6

6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

ACTS 20:29

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

MATTHEW 7:15

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

MATTHEW 7:16

16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

II PETER 2:1

1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

II PETER 2:2

2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

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ACTS 20:30

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

II CORINTHIANS 11:13

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

II CORINTHIANS 11:14

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

II CORINTHIANS 11:15

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

III JOHN 1:9

9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

III JOHN 1:10

10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

TRYING. TO. DO. GOD. A. SERVICE. WITHOUT. BEING. THE.
WILL. OF. GOD_ JEFF. IN V-4 N-8 SUNDAY_ 65-0718M

189 Don't take some new thing. They're flying everywhere, and there'll be more than that come. But don't take these new things.

The Lord your God has declared to you what is Truth. The Lord your God has vindicated what is Truth, by His Word and by His Spirit. "Not by power, not by might, but by My Spirit." And, the Spirit, "God seeks those who worship Him in the Spirit and Truth."

"Thy Word is Truth." And He has thoroughly vindicated that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He has showed the evening Seeds to you. He has revealed It to you, in the Word. He has proven It to you, by His Spirit.

TRYING. TO. DO. GOD. A. SERVICE. WITHOUT. BEING. THE. WILL. OF. GOD_ JEFF. IN V-4 N-8 SUNDAY_ 65-0718M

190 Don't never start or try an organization. Don't try to build upon anything else.

But stay humble before the Lord your God,

for it looks like the gates may open into the promised Land soon. Then let us go in with the true singing and rejoicing, when the Bride and Groom takes its place at the Throne.

191 Live humble. Live loving. Love one another. Don't never get nothing among you. If you see something coming up in your heart against somebody, get it out of there right then. Don't let. And Satan will do his best to get among you. See?

Don't you let that happen. Some slicked-tongue fellow might come along and try to take you away from It. You think they could talk Moses out of the Presence of God, where he had stood there and seen It? No, sir. No.

We don't take from It or add to It. Just keep It the way the Lord said. We don't want no denomination. We don't want no organizations. We don't want no malice. We don't want no strife. We want God, and He is the Word.