

THE

CHURCH

Ps 48:12-14

**Walk about Zion, And go all around her.
Count her towers; Mark well her bulwarks;
Consider her palaces;
That you may tell it to the generation following.
For this is God, Our God forever and ever;
He will be our guide, Even to death.**

CHURCH



**CHRIST
CAME
CALLING
EVERYONE
TO COME TO
HIM**

THE WORD “CHURCH**” REFERS TO ALL THE PEOPLE
WHO HAVE EVER BEEN CALLED OUT OF THE WORLD
BY JESUS CHRIST**

CHURCH

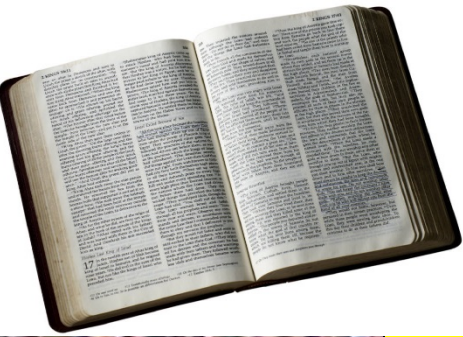
**GOD PLAINLY
SAYS THERE IS**

ONE

CHURCH

**Mk. 16:15 – Go ye into all of the world and preach the
gospel to every creature.**

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.



What dOES the bible say about
organizing his
WHOLE church

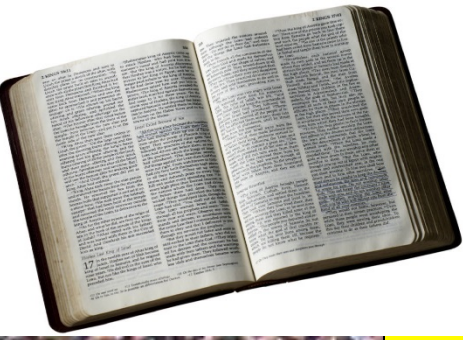
I KNOW – I UNDERSTAND – I REALLY DO

**I know this is a boring, uninteresting, technical subject.
It always has been and always will be.**

So why is it so important?

**THERE HAVE BEEN THREE WORLD-WIDE
APOSTASIES IN THE CHURCH**

AND ALL THREE HAVE BEEN OVER THIS ONE THING

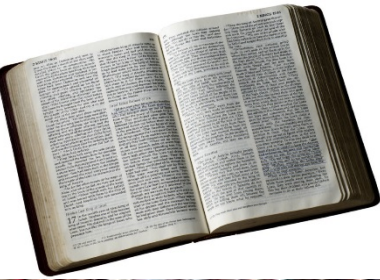


What dOES the bible say about organizing his **WHOLE church**

THERE IS NO **ORGANIZATION** ON EARTH

THERE IS NO **WORK** on earth for them to do

THERE IS NO **WORSHIP** on earth for them to do



THE ONLY ORGANIZATION ON earth
is on THE LOCAL LEVEL with
elders & deacons

Acts
14:23

Titus
1:5

ELDERS
DEACONS
JERUSALEM

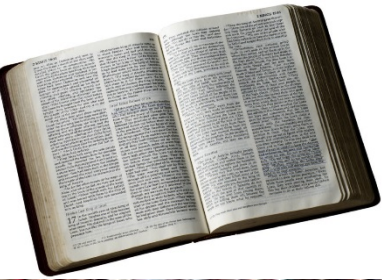
ELDERS
DEACONS
ANTIOCH

ELDERS
DEACONS
EPHESUS

ELDERS
DEACONS
CORINTH


ELDERS
DEACONS
PHILIPPI

ELDERS
DEACONS
LYSTRA




WHAT & WHO


CAUSED THE APOSTASIES



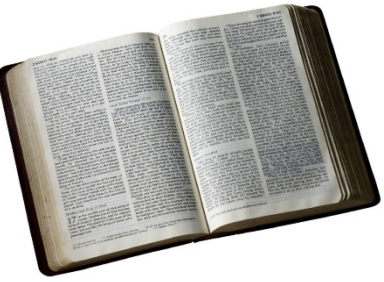
1 Tim 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will **depart from the faith**, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons



2 Thess 2:3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless **the falling away comes first**, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition



Acts 20:29-31 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. **Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.** Therefore watch, and remember that for three years **I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.**



**LET US STOP AND LOOK
AT**

ELDERS

**WE WILL NOT STUDY THEIR QUALIFICATIONS BUT RATHER
THEIR PURPOSE
THEIR DUTIES
WHO ARE THEY
WHY DO THEY EXIST
HOW IMPORTANT THEY ARE
HOW DANGEROUS THEY ARE**



→ ELDERS

The office by the name of “**ELDERS**” was not new to the church. It had existed for thousands of years and was understood by all.

The word is used 199 times in the Bible.

Twelve of these times it refers to the elders in heaven.

Only 16 of these times it refers to the elders in the church.

The nation of Israel had elders.

The cities within the nation of Israel had elders.

Other nations and cities around Israel had elders

The Jewish synagogues had elders

They were like our City Council and their authority was **RESTRICTED** to that one city.



ELDERS

Their responsibilities and restrictions

The office by the name of “**ELDERS**” was a group of rulers selected to rule with wisdom
because of their age.

Age does not guarantee wisdom, but it is necessary for wisdom. If a person is wise at age 30 he should become much wiser as he gets older.

The office was always composed of a plurality of men. If only one person was the ruler he would be known as a
King
Governor
Dictator

JESUS



"ELDER" CARRIES THE IDEA OF "AGE"

OLD



OLDEST



1. ONE OLDER

2. JEWISH ELDERS

3. ELDERS OF THE CHURCH

Acts 20:17

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

~~From that time began Jesus to show unto his disciples, that he must go~~

Acts 14:23 And when they had appointed for them **elders in every church**

JESUS



"ELDER" CARRIES THE IDEA OF "AGE"

OLD



OLDEST



**THE ELDERS OF THE CITY REFERED TO THE BOARD,
COMPOSED OF OLDER MEN,
WHO RULED THE CITY.**

**THE ELDERS OF THE SYNAGOGUE REFERED TO THE BOARD,
COMPOSED OF OLDER MEN,
WHO RULED THE SYNAGOGUE.**

**THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH REFERED TO THE BOARD,
COMPOSED OF OLDER MEN,
WHO RULED THE CONGREGATION.**

JESUS



ELDERS ARE REFERRED TO BY OTHER NAMES

Acts 20:17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called to him the **elders** of the church.



Acts 20:28 Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you **bishops**,

BISHOPS

**ELDERS
ARE ALSO
CALLED
BISHOPS**

JESUS



BISHOP = OVERSEER

ACTS 20:28; PHIL. 1:1

BISHOPS

1 TIM 3:2; TITUS 1:7; 1 PET. 5:2

“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 . . . spec. the superintendent, head or overseer of any Christian church.” (Thayer)

A **gentile word** used of a guardian, municipal officer, or someone appointed to take care of the town or district.

JESUS



ELDERS OR BISHIPS ARE ALSO CALLED SHEPHERDS

Acts 20:17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called to him the **elders** of the church.

Acts 20:28 Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you **bishops**,

Acts 20:28 **to feed** the church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood.

SHEPHERD

ELDERS & BISHOPS
ARE ALSO
CALLED
SHEPHERDS

This is the Greek word for
SHEPHERD

JESUS



ELDERS OR BISHIPS ARE ALSO CALLED SHEPHERDS

1 Peter 5:1-4

The **elders** who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 **Shepherd** the flock of God which is among you, serving as **overseers**, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

4 and when the **Chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

JESUS



A SHEPHERD IS ONE WHO CARES FOR A FLOCK

To feed, to tend a flock, keep sheep...to rule, govern...to furnish pasturage or food; to nourish.

The presiding officer, manager, director of an assembly: (Thayer)

SHEPHERD



**THE CONGREGATION
IS THE**

1 Peter 5:4
And when the
Chief Shepherd
appears, you will
receive the crown of
glory that does not
fade away.

JESUS



THE DIFFERENCES IN THE TERMS

ELDERS

ELDER describes
the person
as one of age,
experience, dignity
and wisdom.

BISHOPS

BISHOP describes
the position
or relationship. It is
one of oversight.

SHEPHERD

SHEPHERD describes
the work
It is one of personal care
for each sheep.

JESUS



THREE GREEK WORDS

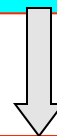
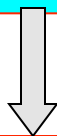
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SIX ENGLISH WORDS

PRESBUTEROS

EPISCOPOS

POIMAN



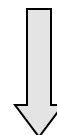
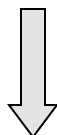
ACTS 20:17-18

ELDERS

BISHOPS

SHEPHERD

FEED



1 PET. 5:1-3

ELDERS

BISHOPS

SHEPHERD

TEND



EPH. 4:11

ELDERS

BISHOPS

SHEPHERD

PASTOR

THE DUTIES OF DEAGONS

**BUT THEY HAVE OTHERS
WHO DO MOST OF THE WORK**

DEFINITION OF THE WORD

DEACON

The diagram features the words 'DEFINITION OF THE WORD' at the top, arranged in a semi-circle. Three arrows point downwards from this text towards the word 'DEACON' in the center. Two horizontal arrows point towards 'DEACON' from the left and right sides. A large arrow points downwards from 'DEACON' towards the word 'SERVANT' at the bottom.

SERVANT

DEACON -- DIAKONOS

Diakonos comes from two Greek words and means,
“raising dust by hastening.”

Thayer defines it as: “One who executes the commands of another, esp. Of a master; a servant, attendant, minister.”

HOW THE WORD IS USED IN THE BIBLE

DEACON

1. CHRIST -----

2. APOSTLES ----

3. EVANGELISTS

4. ALL FOLLOW

5. CIVIL AUTHORITY

6. SATAN'S SERVANTS

7. WOMEN SERVANTS -----

8. WAITERS AT FEAST -----

AND THEN
THERE ARE

DEACONS

IN THE CHURCH

1 1 6

Mt. 22:13

WHAT IS THE WORK OF A DEACON?

WHEN YOU GO TO THE NEW TESTAMENT YOU LEARN

1. There is an office of a deacon.
2. There is a work he is to do.
3. If he does the work well, he earns a good reputation.
4. Deacons in Jerusalem had great responsibilities.
5. There are qualification a man must have to be a deacon

***BUT IN THE WISDOM OF GOD
THERE IS NOT A WORD SAID
ABOUT HIS DUTIES***

WHY?

THE WORD ITSELF DEFINES HIS DUTIES

Since the word "deacon" is one who carries out
the orders of a church, a deacon

without a husband about a

**THEY ARE SERVANTS
OF BOTH
THE ELDERS
&
THE CHURCH**

THE SHEPHERDS OF THE FLOCK.

**THEREFORE, THE DEACONS WOULD BE THOSE MEN WHO SERVE
THEM IN DOING THEIR WORK. THE WORK OF A DEACON WOULD BE
ANY WORK ASSIGNED BY THE ELDERS TO ACCOMPLISH THE WORK
OF THE CHURCH. **THIS WORK CHANGES WITH EVERY GENERATION****

WE DO HAVE AN EXAMPLE OF DEACONS AT WORK

Acts 6

Acts 6:1-4

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution (**deaconing**). 2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve (**deacon**) tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry (**deaconing**) of the word."

***THE WORK OF BOTH
ELDERS AND DEACONS
IS TO***

SERVE

***IN SPECIAL CAPACITIES SO
THE CHURCH CAN
FUNCTION***

&

***SERVE CHRIST
AS HE DESIRES***