

Emphasis 4B: More Introduction to NT Leadership Terms, Functions & Offices

Bible Study Prepared for Grace Christian Fellowship of Dayton, Inc. on Sunday, January 26, 2020 by Greg Weis

(Isaiah 58:12) “Those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; You will raise up the age-old foundations; And you will be called the repairer of the breach, The restorer of the streets in which to dwell.”

I. Emphasis 0: Introduction to the Series: Rediscovering & Restoring the Pattern (Acts 17:11-12)

A. Restoring Biblical Perspective: (Acts 17:1-7) (Matt. 5: 13-15; 16:18) (John 16:13; 14:26) (2 Tim. 3:16)

B. Rediscovering the Pattern: (Ex. 25:8-9, 40; 40:34-35) (Heb. 8:5) (Acts 7:44) (Eph. 2:19-22)

(Hebrews 8:5) They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, “SEE,” He says, “THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN.” (ESV / NASB Blend)

(Acts 7:44) ... as He who spoke to Moses directed him to make it according to the pattern which he had seen.

II. Fifteen (15) Biblical Emphasis for Rediscovery & Restoration to Biblical Patterns (See List On Wall Above)

III. Today: Emphasis 4B: Introduction to NT Leadership Terms, Functions & Offices (Continued)

A. Last Week: 3 Introductory Foundational Understandings: Crucial to Rediscovery & Restoration

1. NT Leadership Terms are first Descriptive before Prescriptive (Growing from Community Life)
2. NT Leadership Terms are first Charismatic & Functional before Hierarchical (Growing from...)
3. NT Leadership Terms are first Organic before Organizational (Growing from Community life)

B. Last Week: Priest & Priesthood: The Priesthood of All Believers – (See Definition Below.)

(Exodus 19:5-6) Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; ⁶and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.” (See 1 Peter 2:9 Below)

(Joshua 13:33) But to the tribe of Levi, Moses did not give an inheritance; the Lord, the God of Israel, is their inheritance, as He had promised to them. (Revelation 1:6; 5:10)

(1 Peter 2:9) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God’s* own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

1. **Definition:** See Last Week – Emphasis 4A. Includes: One who offers sacrifices of praise, worship, prayer, intercession; and One who teaches the pattern of God’s ways, covenants, laws, Etc.
2. **Explanation:** In New Testament All Disciples are called to serve as Priest under our High Priest, Jesus.
 - a. We have no inheritance in this world - The Lord is our Inheritance. (Hebrews 11, Josh. 13:33, Etc.)
 - b. Called to offer spiritual sacrifices made acceptable to God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
(Includes: Worship, Intercession, Spiritual Warfare, Declaration, Etc.)
 - c. Called to have God’s Law written in our hearts and the fabric of our lives, so as to open the eyes of the blind, reconcile the alienated to His Community; and teach His Ways, Covenants, Law, Etc.

(Ezra 7:10) For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do (practice) it and to teach his statutes and rules (ordinances) in Israel. (ESV / NASB) (Read NET Version)

- d. Many More Implications: One who works in Missional Community to Bring the Dominion of Christ to All 7 Institutions of Government vs. Pietistic Gnosticism behind Church Walls. (Discuss)

C. Today: Examine - Overseers, Elders, Bishops, Presbyters and Shepherds –

Note a: Used Mostly Interchangeably Throughout NT (W/ Exception of Shepherds)

Note b: Always Plural (However, Headship & Covenantal Hierarchy.)

1. πρεσβύτερος (*presbyteros*) – Those who presided over the assemblies, communities, churches. Developed from Jewish Scriptural use, thus those in separate cities who managed public affairs or administered justice. (Cf. Matthew 16:18) Also used of Sanhedrin & the 24 Heavenly Elders... (Explain.) (See Joshua & Judges)

Note c: Used in 1 Timothy 5:17, 19; Titus 1:5; Titus 1:7; James 5:14

2. ἐπίσκοπος (*episkopos*) – to look upon, inspect, oversee, look after, care for; of the care of the church which rested upon the elders; to look carefully, beware (1 Tim. 3:1, 2; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 2:25)

3. ποιμαίνω (*poimainō*) – to feed, to tend a flock, keep sheep; to rule, govern; of rulers; to furnish pasture for food; to nourish; to cherish, to serve the body, to supply the requisites for the soul's needs; to do the relational, nurturing work of a Shepherd.

(I Timothy 5:17) The elders (*πρεσβύτερος / presbyteros*) who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching

(Titus 1:5-7a) For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders (*πρεσβύτερος / presbyteros*) in every city as I directed you, ⁶ *namely*, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. ⁷ For the overseer (*ἐπίσκοπος / episkopos*) must be ...

(Acts 20:17-18a; 28) ¹⁷ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders (*πρεσβύτερος / presbyteros*) of the church. ¹⁸ And when they had come to him, he said to them ... ²⁸ "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers (*ἐπίσκοπος / episkopos*), to shepherd (*ποιμαίνω / poimainō*), the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

(I Peter 5:1-2, 5a) Therefore, I exhort the elders (*πρεσβύτερος / presbyteros*) among you, as *your* fellow elder (*συμπρεσβύτερος / sympresbyteros*), and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, ² shepherd (*ποιμαίνω / poimainō*), the flock of God among you, exercising oversight (*ἐπισκοπέω / episkopeō*), not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; ... ⁵ You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders (*πρεσβύτερος / presbyteros*); and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another,

Note e: Again, all *presbyteros* & *episkopos*; i.e. Elders / Overseers are Shepherds, but not all Shepherds are Elders / Overseers.

Note f: Discuss Relationship to fatherhood / sonship. (1 Tim 1:2, 18, 2 Tim 1:2; 2:1; Titus 1:4; Phm. 1:10)

D. Deacons –

(1 Timothy 3:8-13) Deacons (*διάκονος / diakonos*), likewise *must be* men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, ⁹ *but* holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.

¹⁰ These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.

¹¹ Women (*γυνή / gynē*) *must* likewise *be* dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.

¹² Deacons must be husbands of one wife, *and* good managers of *their* children and their own households.

¹³ For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. (See Acts 6:1-8ff & Subsequent Development of Stephen & Phillip)

1. διάκονος (*diakonos*) – one who executes the commands of a master, a servant, attendant, minister; the servant of a king; a deacon, one who, by virtue of the office assigned to him by the church, cares for the poor and has charge of and distributes the money collected for their use; a waiter, one who serves.

2. γυνή (*gynē*) - a woman of any age, whether a virgin, or married, or a widow; a wife; of a betrothed woman. It is unclear whether this is a reference to deacon's wives (as in KJV & ESV) or deaconesses.

Note: We derive the word gynecology from γυνή (*gynē*).

(Romans 16:1-2) I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant (*Lit. deaconess*) (*διάκονος / diakonos*) of the church which is at Cenchrea; ² that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper (patron) of many, and of myself as well. (NASB / ESV) (Discuss Complementarian vs. Egalitarian debate. Family Roles. Etc.)

IV. Upcoming: More NT Leadership Gifts & Terms; 7 Ministry "Service" Gifts;

Shepherding, Discipleship & Raising Up Your Successors vs. Head Transplants (Explain.)