

of elderships within a church. Then at Chapter 15, Verse 22 - "Then pleased it the Apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch" - "It pleased the Apostles and elders; with the whole church" - here there was a group of elders rather than just one. In Acts 20, Verse 17 - "And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church." We had a little argument about this a year ago. A man made a very strong insistence that when he called the elders of the church at Ephesus, there were a lot of churches in Ephesus and each one had one elder so that when he called for elders, the heads of all these churches, one from each church. I don't see that in the verse. I don't see that we have any proof that there was more than one church in Ephesus at this time. Suppose the one church was so big it was meeting in several congregations. Suppose it was all meeting in one congregation, I don't know. But what it says, "He called the elders from the church at Ephesus" and it seems to me that this with the two verses that we looked at before, it is very definitely plural, a plurality of elders in the one church. And you read on there how he called these elders and they came down to see Paul and he talked to them and he said to them in Verse 28, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you bishops, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." Now the translators of the King James Version had one bishop over a lot of churches. But they didn't translate it as "bishop". They translated it as "overseer" but it's exactly the same Greek word and it's the same word which they elsewhere translated "bishop". overseer

~~XXXXXXXX~~ (5.) bishop. Of course, bishop simply means an overseer. It is

It is an overseer. It doesn't matter which way you translate it. Overseer makes more sense to somebody today because it's what the word means. But it certainly suggests "to all the flock" - he doesn't say "the flocks over which the Holy Ghost" - here he says "the flock" - "to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood". Now of course the church of God He has purchased with His own blood is one of these ten churches at Ephesus

(6.) but he has made these men overseers - the Holy Ghost has. And so it seems to me we have rather definitely a plurality of a sort here in this church. (Student question) This is Acts 20:17 and then I brought this later verse in connection with it - Verse 28. Then in Philippians 1:1 we read,