

Bible said that they appointed seven for certain ~~the~~ functions. Did they call these seven deacons right ~~w~~ away. And did they consider that they were using it as a technical term. Maybe. But the N.T, doesn't say that they did. And later ~~one~~ when it speaks of men ~~as~~ as the deacon, a man as a deacon, there is no instance I know of, where the man who is so referred to, is specifically indicated as a man who was handling ~~financial~~ financial matters or material matters. While there are many instances where the man who is called the deacon was a man who was preaching or who was ministering in the Word. And I ~~do~~ believe the word deacon is translated minister twenty times in the N.T. And ~~many~~ not all of these, of course, refer to Christian ministers. We notice that Nero was three times called God's deacon. But the word is used quite generally of Christian ministers. A deacon. So that our evidence is not clear to a direct and definite set of ~~officials~~ officials. We have ~~a~~ certain things clear about them, and then a good many things not ~~so~~ clear. A good many terms which are used today in ~~the~~ different branches of the church, never occur in the N.T. We notice the word pastor only occurs once in the N.T. for an ~~official~~ official of the Christian Church, and there is simply speaks of God giving pastors. It doesn't tell us anything about it. There is ~~not~~ a man referred to in the N.T. as the pastor of the church. There is no instance where the word is used in specific reference to named individuals. Or anybody is addressed as ~~pastor~~ pastor of a church, in the N.T.

Christ is called the shepherd of the church, and it is the ~~same~~ word which is also translated for pastor. Of course, pastor is a ~~shepherd~~ shepherd. So I think we can move on now, from this brief consideration of specific terms for offices, to a preliminary conclusions regarding the govt. of the visible church in apostolic times. Now this is F, ~~X~~ and I think G is of more present vital interest to us, ~~perhaps~~ perhaps, than F. Because F is just a ~~resume~~ resume, really. So, if you don't mind, I am going to give F a bit speedily. And there are points on ~~it~~ it which you might want to discuss, and we can discuss them later, but maybe not ~~now~~ now. Simply to get on to G.

F, preliminary conclusions regarding the govt. of the visible church in