

Now, number 2, govt. in established churches. is always represented as conducted by a group of men and there is no N.T. evidence of any instances ~~xxxxxx~~ where an ~~ix~~ individual had authority in himself to rule over a church. Now I am not saying that there may not have been a church in that time which had one man who was in the ~~xxxxxxxpx~~ position of authority over them. I am saying that there is no N.T. evidence of any such thing. And there is abundant N.T. evidence of control being in the hands of a group. We find it in Jerusalem in the very beginning. Peter got up in the assembly and made a suggestion. Peter did not give any order. We find it in Acts/ 15, where the apstles and the elders came together to ~~x~~ consider a matter. We find ~~xxxxxx~~ that they appointed elders in every city. We find it where the Ephesian elders were called and he said, take heed to the flock over which God hath given you the bishopric over which he has made you bishop or overseer. All the N.T. evidence shows govt. in the hands of a group of men, with no one man having particular position of free.....(end of record)

Record 25

There is evidence in the N.T. of gradual establishment. There is evidence in the N.T. of gradual establishment of certain specific offices. But no ~~xxxxxx~~ <sup>full</sup> statement of the functions of these offices. Now that word "full" is perhaps not very good there. You would almost say that there is no statement of it. Certainly no clear statement of the functions of these offices. That is, no statement of what a deacon is ~~ix~~ to do in the N.T. Well, the seven are not called deacons, and where the word deacon is used it is used of a preacher more than anywhere else. Well, of the presbyter, .....(2) it tells what kind of ~~xxxxxx~~ a man he must be, it implies he had governing power, it doesn't go into detail. The same with a bishop. There is not much statement, we have no form of govt. in the N.T. given, but we can see what was done, and in what was done, we see that gradually these came to be positions. And the development was largely after the end of the N.T. times.

Now, over our resume of what we have already looked at. A, the ~~xxxxxx~~ <sup>words</sup> bishop and presbyter are used synonymously to describe an office, which was