

not as effective, as a rule, for the making of policy.

Well, now, these preliminary considerations we have had here, under the visible church, I think now we might wisely go on to number 4. Which will be a brief survey of the history of ch. govt. since the times of the apostles. I say since the time of the apostles, because we have already briefly surveyed the N.T. evidence as to the type of ch. govt. in use in the time of the apostles. But now, in the time since the time of the apostles, we, as you know, we do not know very much about ch. govt., in fact we don't know anything about it in the remainder of the first century.

We have one letter written by a bishop of Rome, but there is no mention in it of his position as a bishop, he doesn't even refer to himself as bishop. Which proves nothing about ch. govt. This is Roman Numeral IV, a ~~brief~~ brief survey of ch. govt. since the time of the apostles. But it is only about 117 when we get our letters from Ignatius, and the church govt. in the letters of Ignatius, already, are sharply contrasted to the church govt. in the Acts and in the epistles as you can possibly get. Ignatius seems to have been a godly Christian man, one devoted to the ~~Lord~~ Lord, one who gloried in giving his life as a martyr, but Ignatius, in these epistles, stresses the authority of the bishop. He is the bishop of the church, and he stresses the authority of the bishop/ And of course, ~~bishop~~ bishop as he used it, is ~~not~~ like a minister would be today. He is over one church, there is no evidence that he was over more. At least one city, at the most one city. But the idea has become prominent by Ignatius' time, among these very early post-apostolic writings, with the stress in them of the importance of the bishop. The importance of submitting to the bishop, the authority of the bishop. You find not a phrase of such an idea in the N.T.

~~But~~ Paul speaks of his authority as an apostle, nobody claimed that Ignatius was an apostle. The bishops are spoken of as overseers of the people, and the word means overseer, but there is nothing said to suggest such a thing as one bishop in the church, or of the great duty of submitting to a bishop. But Ignatius held it, and seems not to have been opposed.