

would include one of the others, while at the same time being used in a special sense in certain ~~xxx~~ cases. But the bishop and the prebyter. Presbyter is a derivation of the custom of the synagogue where they have ~~an~~ elders who lead the synagogue service and who direct the control of the synagogue. It is the common organization of the Jewish synagogue, is to have a group of presbyters who direct them. Well, the word presbyters, then, is simply taken over from the synagogue. It refers, specifically, to a man's capacity, rather than his function. What is the function of an elder. Why, to be old. It is not a function, it is simply a designation. He is a man of experience. Now the word episcopus is a word taken from pagan sources, rather than from a Jewish source. The episcopus is the overseer, he is a director, it is used of all Roman ~~offic~~ officials, ~~xxxxxxx~~ they are called episcopas. They are directors, they are ~~xxxx~~ bishops. The man who rules is ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ called a bishop. Well, the N.T., then, speaks of presbyters and it speaks of bishops. Are these two different functions ~~a~~ or are they one. No less ~~an~~ a man than St. Jerome, a great scholar, as you all know, St. Jerome made a very strong statement although in his day bishops and presbyters were definitely separated. Presbyters were under the bishops, subordinate to them, that was the church organization of 400 ~~Sx~~A.D., but in spite of that, Jerome said that when it comes to the original teaching of the Scripture, that in the time of the apostles, bishops and presbyters were simply two titles for one and the same officer. And Jerome gave some very very excellent evidence on this point. And it is evidence which has been accepted by a great many protestants of various denominations today. That bishop and presbyter are the same ~~offic~~ office, one describes ~~that~~ the quality of the office, the other describes the work which it performs. Now we speak of the bishops and the deacons and that implies that there is a group of men that are bishops, and a group of men that are deacons. We never hear the N.T. speak of the bishops and the presbyterz. We talk about the bishops or we talk about the presbyters. We never talk in such a way as to suggest that there are two different groups. And they are spoken of in such a way that Jerome said, and I think evidence is watertight, that they are the