

not just a theory that somebody has made up today to ~~account~~ account for our system.

(question) I meant to say, the word.....(12) is a Greek word. But it is a word which was used in the early church, very commonly, to represent a Jewish office. While the word episcopus is a word which was ~~commonly~~ commonly used in the Roman ~~★~~ Empire to represent a civil official. And they take words which originally represent two different things and they apply them to officials the ~~bishops~~ in the church, but they apply them ~~to~~ to the same officials. So that we might call a man a presbyter-bishop, or a bishop-presbyter, if you want, when we are looking at the ancient church. It would seem to be the ~~same~~ same man with two titles.

Well, now, it is interesting to note that there is no case where there is any ~~thing~~ evidence that any church had in it only one bishop or one presbyter. There is no ~~instance~~ instance in the Scripture where a man is spoken of as the bishop or the presbyter of a particular church. They speak of the ~~church~~ church as having bishops, or as having presbyters. We read in Acts 14:31, I believe it is, that Paul and Barnabas ordained elders in every city. Not that they ~~ordained~~ ordained an elder, for each church but elders. They ordained presbyters in each church. The N.T. never gives us any instance where any single official is spoken of as the bishop ~~of~~ or presbyter of a certain church, but always, ~~speaks~~ speaks of them as if they were a group of people. And when you want to speak of a man specifically as a minister, the N.T. calls him a deacon, rather than a presbyter.

(question)[end of record)

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And then when he came back, two weeks later, and ordained officials he found six little congregations had ~~spring~~ sprung up and each of them with three people in it. It is entirely possible, but extremely unlikely. You ask any missionary today who ~~attends~~ goes into an area, if it is unevangelized, and goes around and spends a week here and a week there and a week in the other place preaching, and starts churches, you ask him when he comes back a