

New Testament study of the word “Bishop”

New Testament study of the word “bishop” reveals a subtle insertion of words, suggesting that God has ordained that some of His children be “over” others. The word “hierarchy” defines this man-made system which has infiltrated the Body of Christ, for the most part reducing it to a Lifeless institution. Apostasy is increasing at an alarming rate, as Paul the Apostle warned in his letter to the Thessalonians.

I urge you to take each of the Greek words in this study and look closely at the English words into which they were translated, comparing them with the proper definition. Then read the verses in which they occur. It will become obvious how far we creatures of flesh have gone in the defection from truth (apostasy) and how distorted God’s written word has become.

In this revised version of the study, quotes from Young’s Literal Translation (YLT) have been included.

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### 1. Greek #1980

episkeptomai (ep-ee-skep'-tom-ahee) Middle voice from G1909 and the base of **G4649** [See below for #4649]

Definition: **“to inspect, that is, (by implication) to select; by extension to go to see, relieve”**

Translated: “look out, visit”

### 2. Greek #4649

skopos (skop-os')

(“scope”); From skeptomai (to peer about [“skeptical”] perhaps akin to G4626 through the idea of concealment; compare G4629)

Definition: **“a watch (sentry or scout), that is, (by implication) a goal”**

Translation: “mark”

### 3. Greek #1983

episkopeo (ep-ee-skop-eh'-o)

From G1909 and **G4648** [See below]

Definition: **“to oversee; by implication to beware”**

Translated: “look diligently, take the oversight”

#### 4. Greek #4648

skopeō (skop-eh'-o)

From **G4649** [See above]

Definition: **“to take aim at (spy), that is, (figuratively) regard”**

Translated: “consider, take heed, look at (on), mark” (Compare G3700)

#### 5. Greek #1984

episkopē (ep-is-kop-ay') From G1980

Definition: **“inspection (for relief); by implication superintendence; specifically the Christian ‘episcopate’”**

Translation: - the office of a “bishop”, bishoprick, visitation.

#### 6. Greek #1985

episkopos (ep-is'-kop-os)

From G1909 and G4649 (in the sense of G1983)

Definition: **“a superintendent, that is, Christian officer in general charge of a (or the) church (literally or figuratively)”**

Translated: “bishop, overseer”

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1. Greek #1980

episkeptomai (ep-ee-skep'-tom-ahēe)

Middle voice from G1909 and the base of G4649

Definition: **“to inspect, that is, (by implication) to select; by extension to go to see, relieve”**

Translated: “look out, visit”

– The word “look” was used in both the “authorized” KJV and the revised version.

Acts 6:3: **“Look ye out therefore, brethren, from among you seven men of good report, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.”**

YLT: **“look out, therefore, brethren, seven men of you who are well testified of, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may set over this necessity, and we to prayer, and to the ministration of the word, will give ourselves continually.”** (vs. 3-4)

- Variations of the word "visit" were used in both the "authorized" KJV and revised versions.

Matthew 25:36, 43: "Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye **visited** me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. ...I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye **visited** me not."

YLT: "naked, and ye put around me; I was infirm, and ye **looked after** me; in prison I was, and ye came unto me. ...a stranger I was, and ye did not receive me; naked, and ye put not around me; infirm, and in prison, and ye did not **look after** me."

Luke 1:68, 78: "Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel; for he hath **visited** and wrought redemption for his people, ...Because of the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high shall **visit** us,"

YLT: "Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, Because He **did look upon**, And wrought redemption for His people, ...Through the tender mercies of our God, In which the rising from on high **did look upon** us,"

Luke 7:16: "And fear took hold on all: and they glorified God, saying, a great prophet is arisen among us; and God hath **visited** his people."

YLT: "and fear took hold of all, and they were glorifying God, saying--`A great prophet hath risen among us,' and--`God **did look upon** His people.'"

Acts 7:23: "But when he was well nigh forty years old, it came into his heart to **visit** his brethren the children of Israel."

YLT: "And when forty years were fulfilled to him, it came upon his heart to **look after** his brethren, the sons of Israel; "

Acts 15:14, 36: "Simeon hath rehearsed how first God did **visit** the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. ...And after some days, Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us return now and **visit** the brethren in every city wherein we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they fare."

YLT: "Simeon did declare how at first God did **look after** to take out of the nations a people for His name, ...and after certain days, Paul said unto Barnabas, `Having turned back again, we may **look after** our brethren, in every city in which we have preached the word of the Lord--how they are."

Hebrews 2:6: "But on hath somewhere testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? Or the son of man, that thou **visitest** him?"

YLT: "and one in a certain place did testify fully, saying, `What is man, that Thou art mindful of him, or a son of man, that Thou dost **look after** him?"

James 1:27: "Pure religion and undefiled before our God and Father is this, To **visit** the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

YLT: "religion pure and undefiled with the God and Father is this, to **look after** orphans and widows in their tribulation--unspotted to keep himself from the world."

2. Greek #4649

skopos (skop-os')

("scope"); From skeptomai (to peer about ["skeptical"] perhaps akin to G4626 through the idea of concealment; compare G4629)

Definition: "a watch (sentry or scout), that is, (by implication) a goal"

Translation: "mark"

- The word "mark" was used in the "authorized" KJV, changed from the "goal" in the revised version.

Philippians 3:14: "I press on toward the **goal** unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

YLT: "to the **mark** I pursue for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

3. Greek #1983

episkopeō (ep-ee-skop-eh'-o) From G1909 and G4648

Definition: "to oversee; by implication to beware"

Translated: "look diligently, take the oversight"

- The words "looking diligently" were used in the "authorized" KJV, changed from "looking carefully" in the revised version.

Hebrews 12:15: "**Looking carefully** lest there be any man that falleth short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby the many be defiled;"

YLT: "**looking diligently over** lest any one be failing of the grace of God, lest any root of bitterness springing up may give trouble, and through this many may be defiled;"

- The words "taking the oversight" were used in the "authorized" KJV, changed from "exercising the oversight" in the revised version.

1 Peter 5:2: "Tend the flock of God which is among you, **exercising the oversight**, not of constraint, but willingly, according unto God; nor yet for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;"

YLT: "feed the flock of God that is among you, **overseeing** not constrainedly, but willingly, neither for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind,"

4. Greek #4648

skopeō (skop-eh'-o) From G4649

Definition: **“to take aim at (spy), that is, (figuratively) regard”**

Translated: “consider, take heed, look at (on), mark” (Compare G3700)

- The word “*considering*” was used in the “authorized” KJV, changed from “*looking*” in the revised version.

Galatians 6:1: “Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of meekness; **looking** to thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”

YLT: “Brethren, if a man also may be overtaken in any trespass, ye who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of meekness, **considering** thyself--lest thou also may be tempted;”

- The word “*heed*” was used in the “authorized” KJV, changed from “*look*” in the revised version.

Luke 11:35: “**Look** therefore whether the light that is in thee be not darkness.”

YLT: “**take heed**, then, lest the light that is in thee be darkness;”

- The words “*look*” and “*mark*” were used in both the “authorized” KJV and the revised versions in the following verses:

2 Corinthians 4:18: “While we **look** not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

YLT: “we not **looking** to the things seen, but to the things not seen; for the things seen are temporary, but the things not seen are age-during.”

Philippians 2:4: “Not **looking** each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others.”

YLT: “each not to your own **look** ye, but each also to the things of others.”

Philippians 3:17: “Brethren, be ye imitators together of me, and **mark** them which so walk as ye have us for an ensample.”

YLT: “become followers together of me, brethren, and **observe** those thus walking, according as ye have us--a pattern;”

5. Greek #1984

episkope^ν (ep-is-kop-ay') From G1980

Strong's Definition: “**inspection (for relief); by implication superintendence; specifically the Christian ‘episcopate’**”

Thayer's Definition: “**1) investigation, inspection, visitation**
1a) that act by which God looks into and searches out the ways, deeds”

- character, of men, in order to adjudge them their lot accordingly, whether joyous or sad
- 1b) oversight**
- 1b1) overseership, office, charge, the office of an elder**
- 1b2) the overseer or presiding officers of a Christian church"**

Translation: "the office of a "bishop", bishoprick, visitation"

- The phrase "*office of a bishop*" was used in both the "authorized" KJV and the revised version.

1 Timothy 3:1: "*Faithful is the saying, If a man seeketh the **office of a bishop**, he desireth a good work.*"

YLT: "*Stedfast is the word: If any one the **oversight** doth long for, a right work he desireth;*"

- The word "*bishopric*" was used in the "authorized" KJV, changed from "*office*" in the revised version.

Acts 1:20: "*For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be made desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his **office** let another take.*"

YLT: "*for it hath been written in the book of Psalms: Let his lodging-place become desolate, and let no one be dwelling in it, and his **oversight** let another take.*"

Geneva Bible puts it this way: "*For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be void, and let no man dwell therein; also, Let another take his **charge**.*"

Psalm 69:25: "*Let their habitation be desolate; let none dwell in their tents.*"

- The word "*visitation*" was used in both the "authorized" KJV and the revised version.

Luke 19:44: "*And shall dash thee to the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy **visitation**.*"

YLT: "*and lay thee low, and thy children within thee, and they shall not leave in thee a stone upon a stone, because thou didst not know the time of thy **inspection**.*"

1 Peter 2:12: "*Having your behaviour seemly among the Gentiles: that, wherein they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they behold, glorify God in the day of **visitation**.*"

YLT: "*having your behaviour among the nations right, that in that which they speak against you as evil-doers, of the good works having beheld, they may glorify God in a day of **inspection**.*"

6. Greek #1985

episkopos (ep-is'-kop-os) From G1909 and G4649 (in the sense of G1983)

Strong's Definition: "**a superintendent, that is, Christian officer in general charge of a (or the)**

church (literally or figuratively)”

Thayer Definition:

“1) an overseer

1a) a man charged with the duty of seeing that things to be done by others are done rightly, any curator, guardian or superintendent

1b) the superintendent, elder, or overseer of a Christian church”

Translated: “bishop, overseer”

– The word “*bishop*” was used in both the “authorized” KJV and the revised versions.

1 Timothy 3:2(&3): “The **bishop** therefore must be without reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded [Greek: sound in mind, that is, self controlled], orderly, given to hospitality, apt to teach; no brawler, no striker, but gentle, not contentious, no lover of money;”

YLT: “it behoveth, therefore, the **overseer** to be blameless, of one wife a husband, vigilant, sober, decent, a friend of strangers, apt to teach, not given to wine, not a striker, not given to filthy lucre, but gentle, not contentious, not a lover of money,”

Titus 1:7: “For the **bishop** must be blameless, as God’s steward; not self-willed, not soon angry, no brawler, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre;”

YLT: “for it behoveth the **overseer** to be blameless, as God’s steward, not self-pleased, nor irascible, not given to wine, not a striker, not given to filthy lucre;”

1 Peter 2:25: “For ye were going astray like sheep, but are now returned unto the Shepherd and **Bishop** of your souls.”

YLT: “for ye were as sheep going astray, but ye turned back now to the shepherd and **overseer** of your souls.”

Philippians 1:1: “Paul and Timotheus, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the **bishops** and deacons:”

YLT: “Paul and Timotheus, servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with **overseers** and ministrants;”

– The word “overseers” was used in the “authorized” KJV, changed from “*bishops*” in the revised version.

Acts 20:28: “Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in the which the Holy Ghost hath made you **bishops**, to feed the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood.”

YLT: “Take heed, therefore, to yourselves, and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit made you **overseers**, to feed the assembly of God that He acquired through His own blood;”