

Riot in Ephesus recorded in Acts 19:23-41

¹After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for **Macedonia**.

²When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to **Greece**.

³There he spent three months, and when a **plot was made against him by the Jews** as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

⁴Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus.

⁵These went on ahead and were waiting for **us** at **Troas**,

⁶but we sailed away from **Philippi** after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days **we** came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.

⁷**On the first day of the week**, when **we** were gathered together to **break bread**, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.

⁸There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered.

⁹And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.

¹⁰But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him."

¹¹And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed.

¹²And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.

¹³But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land.

¹⁴And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene.

¹⁵And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we went to Miletus.

Macedonia

-Likely Philippi (16:12)
Thessalonica (17:1) &
Berea (17:10)

Greece

-Likely Athens (17:16) &
Corinth (18:1)

Troas

-Place where Paul had received Macedonian Call

-Acts 16:8-9

Break Bread

-Observing Lord's Supper (Acts 2:42 / 1Co 11:17-26)

-Note that Paul stayed for seven days...possibly so he could observe the memorial with the Christians in Troas?

Resistance from the Jews

- *Antioch (13:45)
- *Thessalonica (17:5)
- *Berea (17:13)
- *Athens (17:16-17)
- *Corinth (18:6)

Return of We/Us

-Likely means that Luke joined back up with Paul in Philippi
-Acts 16:10

First Day of the Week

-The Day Christ Rose From the Grave
-Luke 24:1

Paul & the
Ephesian Elders

30+ Miles Each Way

Paul's Defense

-Apparently facing opposition from Judaizing teachers

-Paul points to his personal experience with the Ephesian brethren

-He endured "tears" and "trials", but still did not "shrink"

-2Co 10:7-10
-Gal 1:6-10
-1Th 2:1-12

¹⁶For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

¹⁷Now from **Miletus** he sent to **Ephesus** and called the elders of the church to come to him.

Elders

-πρεσβύτερος (presbuteros)

-Acts 14:23 - Appointing elders during 1st missionary journey

-Same as men addressed in v. 28 "Overseers"

-Always listed as a plurality (**I Tim 3:1-13**)

¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them: "**You yourselves know** how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia,

¹⁹-serving the Lord with all humility and with **tears** and with **trials** that happened to me through the *plots of the Jews*;

Acts 19:8-10

²⁰how I did not **shrink from** declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house,

Paul did not leave out anything from his teaching regarding the gospel (e.g Circumcision)

²¹testifying both to *Jews and to Greeks* of **repentance** toward God and of **faith** in our Lord Jesus Christ.

²²And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the **Spirit**, not knowing what will happen to me there,

Acts 21:4, 10-11 "Thus says the Holy Spirit..."
-Acts 16:6
-Rom 15:25-33

²³except that the **Holy Spirit** testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

Acts 21:12-14 "I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus"

²⁴But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only **I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus**, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Rom 15:23-24

Paul had fulfilled his ministry in the eastern part of the Roman Empire. He is now prepared to move to the west.

²⁵And now, behold, I know that **none of you** among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom **will see my face again**.

²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that **I am innocent of the blood of all**,

²⁷for I did not **shrink** from declaring to you the **whole counsel of God**.

How do Elders fulfill this mandate and protect the flock? (32)

Warnings of Apostasy

- Mat 7:15-23
- 2Co 11:3
- 2Th 2:1-12
- 1Ti 4:1-5
- 2Ti 3:1-8; 4:1-5
- 2Pe 2:1-3; 3:1-7

Did they heed this warning? (Rev 2:1-7)

Paul's Continued Defense (from v. 21)

Nothing he did in Ephesus was for personal gain

²⁸**Pay careful attention** to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to *care for the church of God*, which he obtained with his own blood.

Overseers

- ἐπίσκοπος (episkopos)
- Same as men addressed in v. 17 "elders"

²⁹I know that after my departure **fierce wolves** will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

- Phil 1:1
- 1Ti 3:2
- Tit 1:7

³⁰and from *among your own selves* will arise **men speaking twisted things**, to draw away the disciples after them.

³¹Therefore **be alert**, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

³²And now I **commend you to God** and to the **word of his grace**, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are **sanctified**.

Only the word of God, received, studied, and obeyed by men can build up the followers of Jesus.

³³I coveted no one's **silver or gold or apparel**.

Sanctified

- ἁγιάζω hagiázō
- Made Holy / Set Apart
- Rom 15:16
- 1Co 1:2; 6:11; 7:14
- Eph 5:26
- 1Th 5:23

³⁴You yourselves know that **these hands** ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me.

³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, '**It is more blessed to give than to receive.**' "

This phrase is not recorded in the Gospels, though Jesus did more than anyone could record (John 21:25)

³⁶And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

³⁷And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him,

³⁸being sorrowful most of all **because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again**. And they accompanied him to the ship.

Riot in Ephesus

Acts 19:23–41 (ESV)

²³ About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. ²⁴ For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. ²⁵ These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. ²⁶ And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. ²⁷ And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship."

²⁸ When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" ²⁹ So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel. ³⁰ But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him. ³¹ And even some of the Asiarchs, who were friends of his, sent to him and were urging him not to venture into the theater. ³² Now some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together. ³³ Some of the crowd prompted Alexander, whom the Jews had put forward. And Alexander, motioning with his hand, wanted to make a defense to the crowd. ³⁴ But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours they all cried out with one voice, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

³⁵ And when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, "Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis, and of the sacred stone that fell from the sky? ³⁶ Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. ³⁷ For you have brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our goddess. ³⁸ If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. ³⁹ But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly. ⁴⁰ For we really are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion." ⁴¹ And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

Macedonia and Greece

Acts 16:12 (ESV)

¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days.

Acts 17:1 (ESV)

¹ Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.

Acts 17:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue.

Acts 17:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.

Acts 18:1 (ESV)

¹ After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

Resistance from the Jews

Acts 13:45 (ESV)

⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.

Acts 17:5 (ESV)

⁵ But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd.

Acts 17:13 (ESV)

¹³ But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds.

Acts 17:16–17 (ESV)

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.

Acts 18:6 (ESV)

⁶ And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

Troas

Acts 16:8–9 (ESV)

⁸ So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

We/Us

Acts 16:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

First Day of the Week

Luke 24:1 (ESV)

¹ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.

Breaking Bread

Acts 2:42 (ESV)

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

1 Corinthians 11:17–26 (ESV)

¹⁷ But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, ¹⁹ for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. ²⁰ When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. ²¹ For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in

my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Elders

Acts 14:23 (ESV)

²³And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

1 Timothy 3:1–13 (ESV)

¹ The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ² Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church? ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. ⁸ Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹ They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹ Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³ For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

4565 πρεσβύτερος (*presbyteros*), α (*a*), ον (*on*): adj. [see πρεσβύτερος (*presbyteros*), ου (*ou*), ό (*ho*), just below]; ≡ Str 4245; TDNT 6.651—**1**. LN 67.102 older (male or female), (Lk 15:25; 1Ti 5:1, 2+; Jn 8:9 v.r. NIV, most versions); **2**. LN 67.27 **of ancient times**, ancestral (Heb 11:2+)

πρεσβύτερος (*presbyteros*), ου (*ou*), ό (*ho*): n.masc. [BAGD adj.] [served by 4565]; ≡ DBLHebr 2418; Str 4245—**1**. LN 9.31 **old man** (Ac 2:17+); **2**. LN 53.77 **an elder**, community leader (Mt 15:2; Ac 11:30; Ac 14:23; 1Ti 5:17, 19; 2Jn 1; 3Jn 1; Jn 8:9 v.r. NRSV)¹

4245. πρεσβύτερος *presbuteros*; a cptv. of πρέσβυς *presbus* (*an old man*); *elder*:—elder(3), elders(57), men of old(1), old men(1), older(1), older man(1), older ones(1), older women(1), women(1).²

¹ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

² Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

Paul’s Defense

Acts 19:8–10 (ESV)

⁸ And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

2 Corinthians 10:7–10 (ESV)

⁷ Look at what is before your eyes. If anyone is confident that he is Christ’s, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ’s, so also are we. ⁸ For even if I boast a little too much of our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be ashamed. ⁹ I do not want to appear to be frightening you with my letters. ¹⁰ For they say, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account.”

Galatians 1:6–10 (ESV)

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. ¹⁰ For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:1–12 (ESV)

¹ For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. ² But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. ³ For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, ⁴ but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵ For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. ⁶ Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. ⁷ But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. ⁸ So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. ⁹ For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. ¹¹ For you

know how, like a father with his children, ¹² we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

Holy Spirit / Jerusalem

Acts 21:4 (ESV)

⁴ And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.

Acts 21:10–11 (ESV)

¹⁰ While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹ And coming to us, he took Paul’s belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit, ‘This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’ ”

Acts 16:6 (ESV)

⁶ And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.

Romans 15:25–33 (ESV)

²⁵ At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. ²⁷ For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. ²⁸ When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. ²⁹ I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ. ³⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, ³¹ that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³² so that by God’s will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. ³³ May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Paul’s Life

Acts 21:12–14 (ESV)

¹² When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³ Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” ¹⁴ And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, “Let the will of the Lord be done.”

Paul’s Fulfilled Ministry

Romans 15:23–24 (ESV)

²³ But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, ²⁴ I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.

Overseers

2176 ἐπίσκοπος (*episkopos*), ου (*ou*), ὁ (*ho*): n.masc.; ≡ DBLHebr 7212, 7213, 7224; Str 1985; TDNT 2.608—**1.** LN 35.43 **guardian**, supervisor, keeper (1Pe 2:25+); **2.** LN 53.71 **church leader**, overseer (Ac 20:28; Php 1:1; 1Ti 3:2; Tit 1:7+)³

1985. ἐπίσκοπος *episkopos*; from 1909 and 4649; *a superintendent, an overseer*:—guardian(1), overseer(2), overseers(2).⁴

Philippians 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

1 Timothy 3:2 (ESV)

² Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

Titus 1:7 (ESV)

⁷ For an overseer, as God’s steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain,

³ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁴ Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

Episkopos and Presbyteros

Definition of <i>episkopos</i>	"supervisor"; "overseer"; "guardian"
English Translation	Versions
overseer	ESV, LEB, NASB, NIV, HCSB, NET, NCV
bishop	AS, AV, KJV, NKJV, NRSV, RSV
elder	ISV, NLT

Definition of <i>presbyteros</i>	"elder"; "senior person"
English Translation	Versions
elder	LEB, ESV, ASV, AV, HCSB, ISV, KJV, NET, NASB, NCV, NIV, NKJV, NLT, NRSV, RSV

New Testament Occurrences	<i>episkopos</i>	<i>presbyteros</i>
Gospels	0	0
Acts	1	10
Paul's Letters	3	3
General Letters	1	5
Revelation	0	0
Total NT Uses	5	18

The Greek title *episkopos* was used to designate someone who had been given administrative or supervisory oversight of a public project or a particular region. In the NT, the title indicates those who have been appointed to watch over and care for the local church (see Acts 20:28). This church office was also referred to using the title *presbyteros*, a more common Greek word that could also be used to refer to “elders” in a generational or traditional sense. The Gospels frequently refer to the “elders” of the Jews to indicate the traditional leaders of Jewish society (Matt 21:23; 27:20). The traditions of Judaism are also referred to as *tēn paradōsin tōn presbyterōn*, or “the traditions of the elders” (Matt 15:2; Mark 7:3). The term *presbyteros* can also refer simply to the elderly or aged population (1 Tim 5:1–2). The NT usage of *presbyteros* in the table above is limited to occurrences that refer to church leadership, mirroring the distribution of *episkopos*.

The elders or overseers were responsible for the leadership of the church. The variety of roles Paul lists for church leaders (Eph 4:11; 1 Cor 12:27–31) were gifted areas of leadership that exemplified an elder’s range of responsibilities. Elders make up all the church office roles: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, miracle workers, healers, and administrators.

The various NT references to church offices and areas of giftedness are never placed within a formal hierarchy by any of the NT writers. Modern knowledge of the actual practice and structure of the first-century AD churches is very limited. The organization of the early church seems to reflect typical Graeco-Roman and Jewish social structures: community leadership was typically held by the established heads of the households. For example, the Jewish synagogue was maintained by a council of local elders (the *gerousia*) led by the “ruler of the synagogue” (*archisynagogos*; see Acts 18:17).

By the early second century AD, the church father Ignatius assumes a three-tiered organization in the churches with one bishop (*episkopos*) overseeing a council of elders (*presbyterion*) and a group of deacons (*diakonoi*) (see Ignatius to the Ephesians 5). However, the NT usage of *episkopos* and *presbyter* is fluid and flexible and does not support a rigid division of the two offices. The term *episkopos* was a more common Greek way of indicating someone in charge of civil or religious matters. The term *presbyter* was common in Hellenistic (that is, Greek-speaking) Judaism to refer to the honored older members of the community who often served as local community leaders....DOUGLAS MANGUM⁵

Warnings Against Apostasy

Matthew 7:15–23 (ESV)

¹⁵ “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased

⁵ Barry, J. D., Grigoni, M. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Mangum, D., & Whitehead, M. M. (2012). *Faithlife Study Bible*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. ²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

2 Corinthians 11:3 (ESV)

³ But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:1–12 (ESV)

¹ Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

1 Timothy 4:1–5 (ESV)

¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ² through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, ³ who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴ For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

2 Timothy 3:1–8 (ESV)

¹ But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-

control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. ⁶ For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, ⁷ always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith.

2 Timothy 4:1–5 (ESV)

¹ I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵ As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

2 Peter 2:1–3 (ESV)

¹ But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³ And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

2 Peter 3:1–7 (ESV)

¹ This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, ² that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, ³ knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." ⁵ For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. ⁷ But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

Left Their First Love

Revelation 2:1–7 (ESV)

¹ “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. ² “ ‘I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. ³ I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. ⁶ Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’

Sanctified

39 ἁγιάζω (*hagiazō*): vb.; ≡ DBLHebr 7727; Str 37; TDNT 1.111—**1.** LN 53.44 **dedicate**, to service and loyalty to God (1Co 1:2); **2.** LN 88.26 **make holy**, sanctify, to cause one to have the quality of holiness (1Th 5:23); **3.** LN 88.27 **honor as holy**, hallow, feel reverence, regard as holy (Mt 6:9)⁶

ἁγιάζω *hagiazō*; from 40; to make holy, consecrate, sanctify:—hallowed(2), keep himself holy(1), sanctified(16), sanctifies(2), sanctify(7).⁷

Romans 15:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

1 Corinthians 6:11 (ESV)

¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

⁶ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁷ Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

1 Corinthians 7:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

Ephesians 5:26 (ESV)

²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (ESV)

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.