

Chapter 2

1. Why do the deacons need to know the biblical roles and identity of the New Testament overseer? Why is this important for you to know as you go forward in this study?
2. What ideas are conveyed by the title *episkopos*?
3. Can you give any biblical proof that overseers are the same group of officials called elders? Why is this important?
4. Why does Paul refer to overseers in the plural in Acts 20.28 and Philippians 1.1, and to the overseer in the singular in 1 Timothy 3.2 and Titus 1.7? (see endnote 3 on page 49 in the text.) Why is it important to be able to answer this question correctly?
5. What does the phrase “God’s steward” tell you about the biblical concept of the position and work of the overseer?
6. What does the phrase “care for God’s church” tell you about the work of the overseer (1 Tim 3.5)? To help you answer this question, see Luke 10.34 where the same Greek word for care is used.
7. One of the most beautiful and significant images in the Bible is the image of the sheep and the shepherd. The Spirit of God charges the elders to shepherd the church of God in Acts 20.28 what does Acts 20.28 tell you about the position, authority, and work of the elders in the church?
8. Spend a moment and list all that the Christian elders are expected to do according to Acts 20.26-31. Why is it essential to the deacons work to understand the full shepherding task God has given to the church elders?
9. Look at 1 Peter 5.1-2. What new truths about shepherding elders does Peter add to Paul’s teachings? And what things do they agree?
10. What vitally important instruction does 1 Timothy 5.17-18 give to the local church and its elders? Be sure you understand this significant passage of scripture...
11. What does it mean that the elders must help the weak? Why would this injunction be important to elders and deacons? (Acts 20.35)
12. In what ways has your understanding of the biblical term elders changed as a result of reading chapter 2?