

Episcopacy, though after the order of the Greek Church, exists in Crete at present, and comprises seven dioceses; thus furnishing presumptive proof that such has been the order of Church government there from the beginning.

I would desire to add further Scripture testimony to what I have here advanced. St. Paul in his Epistle to Timothy, refers to his own marvellous call to the Apostleship, and to the ministry of the glorious Gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to his trust; "this charge," he says, "I have committed to thee, Son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that by them thou mightest war a good warfare," correcting the errors, and combating the teachings of some who "having swerved, turned aside to vain jangling, desiring to be teachers of the law, knowing not what they said nor, whereof they affirmed."

You will observe from this that the trust confided to Timothy, the office he had to fulfil, had special reference to *teachers*, whether by instituting them to office, or correcting them when they erred; yet he was to "lay hands suddenly on no man," nor was he to "receive an accusation against an Elder (in other words, Presbyter) except before two or three witnesses." It is plain from these instructions to Timothy that his ministrations embraced judicial authority, and that offenders against the doctrines or Order of the Church were amenable to him. It may be objected—this authority pertained to the Apostolic office. True; but the Apostle says to Timothy: "The things which thou hast heard of me among many witnesses the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others." Was not Timothy to be the judge of the faithfulness and fitness of those to whom he was to commit that which to him had been committed?

It will be borne in mind that there were Elders in the Church of Ephesus, previous to the appointment of Timothy to the Episcopate. St. Paul laboured there for a period of three years: Apollos laboured there also. The former, on his journey to Jerusalem, sent directions to the Elders of Ephesus to come to him at Miletus, to whom he gave sundry instructions, and apprized them that even from amongst themselves should grievous wolves arise, &c. He enjoins it upon them to take heed to themselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost had made them overseers. It might, perhaps, be supposed that this was to be the closing act of the Apostle with respect to the Elders, and Church at Ephesus. But, no; he sends Timothy there, and subsequently writes to him, saying: "I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine." In short, that he might take up the position which the Apostle previously occupied. It may be said St. Paul

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