

Look first at the language of my text: "Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, with the Bishops and Deacons."

Here we have brought before us in one verse the whole Church, together with its Three-fold Ministry. First, we have Paul and Timotheus, Apostles and Rulers of the Church, then the Bishops or Presbyters, then the Deacons, and also the whole body of the Christian laity, "all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi." That passage alone is able to establish the fact that the Church of Apostolic days had a Three-fold Ministry.

Then look at the Epistles of St. Paul to Timothy and Titus, and note carefully the position assigned by St. Paul to Timothy and Titus in the Churches of Ephesus and Crete respectively.

Timothy is entrusted by St. Paul with the government of the Church at Ephesus. He has under him Bishops or Presbyters, and Deacons. The ordering of the public prayers of the Church; the judging of the qualifications of Bishops or Presbyters, and Deacons; the ordaining of Ministers; the rebuking (when necessary) of Elders, or Presbyters; in fact the whole government of the Church at Ephesus is entrusted by St. Paul to Timothy. Timothy was to be to the Church of Ephesus what St. Paul had hitherto been, its Apostolic ruler, or, as we should express it to-day, its Diocesan Bishop.

Timothy was a young man. St. Paul was advancing in years and nearing the end of his ministry. In a most important sphere of his Apostolic labor, (specimen of what happened elsewhere), St. Paul provides that his office shall be continued. In his Epistles to Timothy we see St. Paul giving directions to one who was to be his successor in the Apostolic government of a portion of the Holy Catholic Church.

In the Epistle of St. Paul to Titus, who was set by him over all the Church of Crete, we see like directions to those given to Timothy; he was to "set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain Elders (Presbyters) in every city." Titus, then, was to be the Apostolic ruler of the Churches of Crete, having under him numerous Bishops or Presbyters, and Deacons.

During the ten closing years then of the Ministry of the Apostles, from A. D. 60 to A. D. 70, we have clear evidence of the existence