

Chapter 3

1. *“Faithful is the word, if anyone wants the office of an overseer, he desires a good work.”*

The phrase “faithful is the word” (πιστος ο λογος) may be translated *reliable, trustworthy, and credible* is the word, the *saying, expression, and statement*. Paul uses this exact phrase *five times* in writing to Timothy and Titus (1 Tim. 1:15; 4:9; 2 Tim. 2:11; Titus 3:8). In all these passages it is obviously used to *affirm* the trustworthiness, truthfulness, reliability, and credibility of a statement that follows it. The Apostle John uses a similar statement twice in the Book of Revelation to affirm the truthfulness of what he is saying. In Revelation 21:5, he says, “these words are faithful and true,” i.e., they are *entirely reliable* (cf. Rev. 22:6).

Now let us consider the conditional statement, “if anyone wants the office of an overseer.” The Greek word translated “wants” (ορεγεται) has the basic idea of *extending and stretching out, reaching for, or hankering for* something. In this verse the thing the person is stretching out toward is the “office of an overseer” (επισκοπησ). This Greek word is derived from the two words “επι” and “σκοπος,” which respectively mean *over* and *one who sees or watches*. As used in the New Testament the word “επισκοπος” refers to those who have the responsibility of *spiritual oversight and watchfulness* over the believers in a local assembly (Acts 20:28; cf. 1 Peter 2:25).

It appears that the word “overseer” (επισκοπος) and the word “elder” (πρεσβυτερος) are used almost synony-