

What is a minister?

Eph 3:7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power.

Διάκονος diakonos

Thayer Definition:

- 1) one who executes the commands of another, especially of a master, a servant, attendant, minister
 - 1a) the servant of a king

1b) a deacon, one who, by virtue of the office assigned to him by the church, cares for the poor and has charge of and distributes the money collected for their use 1c) a waiter, one who serves food and drink

Act 6:1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. (2) And the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. (3) "But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. (4) "But we will devote ourselves to prayer, and to the ministry of the word." (5)

And the statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.

The apostles at Acts 6:4 chose the ministry
(*diakaneo*) of the word.

The task of the serving (*diakaneo*) of food and
these deacons were chosen by the church with the
apostles then putting them in charge of the
widow's care.

1Ti 3:8-13 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.

1a) the servant of a king

2Ti 2:1-4 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. (2) And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. (3) Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. (4) No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

Eph 4:11-12 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, (12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

The word pastor appears once in most translations but the Greek from which it comes is *poimen* a noun, which occurs 18 times in 17 verses and is translated shepherd in all other instances. At Acts 20.28, the Greek is *poimaneō* the verb form and is translated feed, tend, shepherd and rule

Rom 15:15-16 But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God (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.

Thus anyone who serves the Lord is a “servant” and there is also a special work in serving the church where men are to be appointed to serve the church.

The NAS is particularly weak on the idea of women being “deaconesses” in its footnotes at Rom 16.1 – Phoebe and at Rom 16.7 with Junias possibly being the feminine Junia as being an apostle but this use of the word is “one sent” as in Barnabas, James, the brother of Christ, Silas, and such as the husband/wife team Priscilla and Aquila.

Will this happen in heaven?

Mat 5:17-18 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. (18) For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. (NAS)

The NAS NIV and ESV is particularly poor on the translation of *kataluo* as abolish. The KJV and ASV translates it as “destroy” with the word meaning “disintegrate, demolish”.

The problem is that Jesus did abolish the law.

Col 2:14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

The word is *exaleipho* meaning to smear out, obliterate.

Heb 8:13 When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

Heb 1:1-2 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, (2) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

When did this occur?

Luk 24:44-47 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." (45) Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, (46) and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; (47) and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Immediately after Jesus spoke these words, he ascends into heaven Lk 24.50-51.

10 days later, as the apostles tarried in Jerusalem Acts 1.4, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and they begin preaching repentance and baptism for the remission of sins.

Act 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Law of Moses is done away with, however, the Jewish Christians do not understand nor do the apostles.

Act 15:7 And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.

Act 15:27-29 "Therefore we have sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will also report the same things by word of mouth. (28) "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials: (29) that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication; if you keep yourselves free from such things, you will do well. Farewell."

Even then, they do not understand but continue to operate under two covenants.

Act 21:19-21 And after he had greeted them, he began to relate one by one the things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. (20) And when they heard it they began glorifying God; and they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the Law; (21) and they have been told about you, that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs.

It is not until shortly before the end of God's revelation to man that the difference in the Old and New Testaments is made clear.

Gal 5:1-4 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. (2) Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. (3) And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. (4) You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

2Pe 1:3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

2Ti 3:15-17 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (16) All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; (17) that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Jud 1:3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Heb 1:1-2 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, (2) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

This is exactly as Paul describes the situation in AD 57 as he writes to Corinth and we finally have all revealed just before the fall of Jerusalem resulting in the books we find in our NT today.

1Co 13:9-10 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; (10) but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.