

Colossians 1:7 -- "just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf."

Colossians 1:23 -- "If indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister."

Colossians 1:25 -- "Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God."

Colossians 4:7 -- "As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information."

I Thessalonians 3:2 -- "and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's minister (or fellow-worker -- textual variant -- $\sigma\upsilon\nu\epsilon\rho\gamma\omicron\nu$ -- given a B rating by UBS) in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith."

I Timothy 3:8 -- "Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain"

I Timothy 3:12 -- "Let deacons be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households."

I Timothy 4:6 -- "In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following."

(b) The function of the office of deacon

The function may be determined from three considerations:

First, the word itself, and its meanings in the New Testament

Second, the circumstances surrounding the apparent institution of the office, as recorded in Acts 6:1-4

verse 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."

The word "serving" is $\delta\iota\alpha\kappa\omicron\nu\acute{\iota}\alpha$ ("service, ministering, communication")

verse 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 service tables.' "