

So Saul, becomes an "instant minister". His inborn gift of ministry is turned around with the rest of his life when he meets Jesus. Saul immediately begins to serve God and carry the Gospel out to the world. Was he qualified to do this?

The requirements to be a "diakonos" as stated in 1 Timothy chapter 3 are as follows.....

"Likewise must the deacons (diakonos) be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the "office of a deacon" (diakonos), being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the "deacons" (diakonos) be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the "office of a deacon" (diakonos) well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 3:8-13, KJV).

The important thing to notice is that there is absolutely no requirement of experience or "time as a Christian", for someone to become a "diakonos". There *is* this requirement for someone to be a "bishop".....

"This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." (1 Timothy 3:1-7, KJV). [A "bishop" Biblically--was the ministry of leading and organizing others (specifically the deacons--the "ministers") to serve God. Also note that most of the requirements regard the home life--since the Christian home was the "church"-!!!

Saul was not a "bishop"--rather he was a "diakonos"--a minister--a servant of God--an apostle. The "instant ministry" --the "immediate apostleship" of Saul makes perfect sense when we study new testament gifting, and requirements just as they are stated in the Bible. . Saul, a "novice" had every Biblical right to serve God--to begin quickly into his ministry of serving God as an apostle. An apostle (as well as a pastor or prophet or evangelist or teacher) is a "diakonos" --and a "diakonos" can be a novice--a new believer! Jesus took common uneducated men, and made them apostles--and He did it quickly! Release was part of Jesus' Gospel--is it part of ours?? This is purely what the Bible says--does it line up with our ideas and traditions about ministry? www.tracts.com

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