

upon the people, but does warrant them in laying a certain ~~burden~~ burden upon them. And then we find that Paul and Silas went off and carried their message with them, and in verse 4 of ~~chapter~~ chapter 16, we read, that as they went through the churches they delivered them the decrees for to keep. That were ordained of the apostles and the elders, which were at Jerusalem. The decrees for to keep.

Now, what does that mean, to keep. The rich young ruler said to Jesus, ~~all~~ all these have I kept from my youth up. The same Greek word. They delivered them the decrees for to keep. So, we see here an ~~is~~ evidence that these churches were ~~a~~ knit together in a certain relationship. Now just how close was the relationship there is no evidence that any central body accepted orders as to who should be leader of the church. There is no evidence that any attempt was made by a central body to regulate details of the church. There is no evidence of a sharp oversight or control of them at all, but there is evidence that in vital matters like this it was felt that it was proper that the body of the apostles and the elders should lay down an explanation of what the Scripture teaches and that they should follow.

(question) It says, in verse 22, then pleased that the apostles and the elders. With the whole church. And verse 23, the ~~the~~ apostles and elders and brethren send greetings. So that it is very clear that the whole church had something to do with it. But it would seem even clearer that the decision was made, not by the whole church, but by the apostles and the elders. Because for these two references to the whole church, we ~~have~~ have about four or five others which speak of the apostles and the elders coming together. It would seem that the apostles and the elders did not feel that they should give orders to the whole church, which the whole church would follow, but that they would make decisions that they counted on the approval of the church, for and if the whole church, and if there was opposition to them, they would reconsider them very carefully. They didn't say, here is the order, you take it. But they said, here is the way it appears to ~~us~~ us in Scripture, and these men who were selected by the ~~the~~ whole church for the purpose were pretty sure to