

Study Guide to Alexander Strauch's
Paul's Vision for the Deacons
Introduction & Chapter 1

Read the Introduction: What Do Deacon Do?

Q: Strauch cites a number of opinions about the work of deacons. Why are there so many different views on this matter?

A: _____

Q: How would you answer the question presented in the introduction? In other words, please give your answer to the question, "What do deacons do?"

A: _____

Read Chapter 1: Paul's Instructions Regarding Deacons

Q: Strauch writes about the specific information provided in Scripture concerning deacons. Here's the list he compiles:

1. Deacons are first mentioned in Paul's greeting to the church in Philippi.
2. Deacons are regulated by Paul's instruction in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
3. Deacons are always mentioned after overseers.
4. Deacons are required to meet specific qualifications.
5. Deacons are not required to teach.
6. Deacons are required to be examined and approved by the church and its leaders.
7. Deacons are church officeholders like the overseers.
8. "Deacons" is plural.
9. Deacons' wives (or women deacons) are required to meet specific qualifications.
10. Deacons can gain much respect in the eyes of the church and have their faith in Christ deepened.
11. Deacons are called *diakonoi* in Greek.

Strauch has extracted a lot of information from a few texts. So what is the significance of each point? How does this list help us understand the office?

A: _____
