and other dangers awaiting him, he  
might well expect never to return, Consequently, what he here says need not  
fetter our judgment on the above question.

**28. the flock**] This similitude does  
not elsewhere occur in Paul’s writings.  
We find it, where we should naturally  
expect it, used by him, to whom it was  
said, ‘Feed my sheep,’ 1 Pet. v. 2,3. But  
it is common in the O. T. and sanctioned  
by the example of our Lord Himself: Luke  
xii. 32.

**over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you ...**] See ch. xiii. 2.

**bishops**] See on ver. 17, and Theodoret on Phil. i. 1, “The Apostle calls the  
elders (presbyters) bishops: for at that  
time they had both names.”

**the  
church of God**] On the variety of reading  
here, and the reasons which have led me  
to adhere to that in the text, see in my  
Greek Test.

**29. grievous wolves**]  
Not *persecutors*, but *false teachers*, from  
the words “*enter in among you*,” by which  
it appears that they were to *come in among  
the flock*, i.e. to be baptized Christians.  
In fact ver. 30 is explanatory of the metaphoric meaning of ver. 29.

**30.] your  
own selves** does not necessarily signify the  
*presbyters*: he speaks to them as being  
the whole flock.

**31.**] On the *three  
years* spoken of in this verse, see note,  
ch. xix. 10. We may just remark here (1)  
that this passage being precise and definite,  
must be the master-key to those others (as  
in ch. xix.) which give wide and indefinite  
notes of time: and (2) that it seems at  
first sight to preclude the idea of a journey  
(as some think) to Crete and Corinth  
having taken place during this period.  
But this apparent inference may require  
modifying by other circumstances: compare  
Introduction to 1 Cor. § v. 4.

**32.  
which is able**] Clearly spoken of *God*,  
not of the *word of His grace*, which cannot  
be said *to give an inheritance*, however it  
might *build up*.—The expression “*an in-  
heritance among all them that are sanctified*” is strikingly similar to “*his inheritance in the saints*” Eph. i. 18, addressed  
to this same church. See also ch. xxvi. 18.

**33.**] See 1 Sam. xii. 3; and for  
similar avowals by Paul himself, 1 Cor. ix.  
11, 12; 2 Cor. xi. 8,9; xii. 13.

**34.  
these hands**] Also strikingly in Paul’s