Ill. 1,2. I. TIMOTHY. ot   
 ww   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION. AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED.   
 office of a bishop, he de-| hishop, he desireth a good ¢ work. b Acts xx.   
 sireth a good work. ? Alo q   
 bishop then must be blame- A bishop then must be irre- $2 a   
 less, the husband of one|proachable, °the husband of one eenv.o.   
 wife, vigilant, sober, of| wife, vigilant, soberminded, orderly,   
 good behaviour, given to   
   
   
 pate betraying the late age of the Epistle, second century], and might easily find its   
 falls to ground) (the) bishopric (office way into the Christian community. And   
 of an overseer or bishop: but it is merely such, it is was the Apostle’s refer-   
 laying a trap for misunderstanding, to ren- ence, not to second marriages, which he   
 der the word, at this time of the Church’s himself commands ch. v. 14, and allows in   
 history, ‘the office of a Bishop,’ without several other places, e.g. Rom. vii. 2,   
 giving an explanation, what that office was. 1 Cor. vii.39. But the objection to taking   
 The “episcopi” of the N. T. have officially this meaning is, that the Apostle would   
 nothing in common with our Bishops. In hardly have specified that as a requisite   
 Acts xx. 17, the A. V. ought to have been for the episcopate or presbyterate, which   
 consistent with itself, to have rendered we know to have been fulfilled by all   
 the word bishops always, not bishops in one Christians whatever: no instance being   
 place and overseers in another, to suit adduced of polygamy being practised in   
 ecclesiastical It would be better the Christian church, and no exhortations   
 to adopt the other alternative, and always to abstain from it. As to St. Paul’s com-   
 to render it overseers, were not that word mand and permissions, see below. Still,   
 to common English readers appropriated must not lose sight of the circumstance   
 to another kind of office. Thus we should that the earlier Commentators were unani-   
 avoid any chance of identifying it with a mous for this view. 2) For the view that   
 present and different office, take refuge second marriages are prohibited to as-   
 in the meaning of the word itself, at pirants after the episcopate,—is, the most   
 the same time bears an important testi- probable meaning [sce there] of “wife of   
 mony to the duties of the post.—The iden- one husband” in ch. v. also the wide   
 tity of the “bishop” and “presbyter” in prevalence in the early Church of the idea   
 apostolic times is evident from Tit. 5—7: that, although second marriages were not   
 see also note on Phil. i.1), he desireth a JSorbidden to Christians, abstinence from   
 good work (not ‘a good thing:’ but a them was better than indulgence in them.   
 good employment: sce 1 Thess. v. 13: See this proved by various authorities cited   
 2 Tim. iv. 5: one of the “good works” in my Greek Test. With regard to the   
 so often spoken of). It behoves then (then Apostle’s own command and \_ permissions   
 is best regarded as taking up the term “a of this state [see they do not come   
 good work,” and substantiating that as- into account here, because they are con-   
 sertion: “a good work ranst be entrusted fessedly (and expressly so in ch. v. 14) for   
 to good men”) a bishop (generic) to be those whom it was not contemplated to   
 irreproachable (Theodoret draws an im- admit into ecclesiastical office. 3) There   
 portant distinction: “not to afford just have been some divergent lines of inter-   
 cause for blame: this is what he says, not pretation, but they have not found many   
 that he should not be the object of slander, advocates. Some deny altogether the for-   
 for this the Apostle himself was in many mal reference to 1) or 2), and understand   
 ways”), husband of one wife (two great the expression only of a chaste life fide-   
 varieties of interpretation of these words lity to the marriage vow: “that neither   
 have prevailed, among those who agree to polygamy, nor concubinage, nor any offen-   
 take them as restrictive, not injunctive, sive second marriage, should be able to be   
 which the spirit of the passage and the alleged against such a person,” But surely   
 insertion of the word one surely alike for- this is very vague, for the precise words   
 bid. They have been supposed to prohibit “husband of one wife.’ Bretschneider   
 either 1) simultaneous polygamy, or 2) maintains that “one” is here the inde-   
 successive polygamy. 1) has somewhat to finite article, that the Apostle means,   
 he said for it. The custom of polygamy a bishop should be the husband of a wife.   
 was then prevalent among the Jews [Justin This hardly needs serious refutation. Worse   
 Martyr says that their Rabbis even then still the Romanist evasion, which under-   
 permitted them to have four or five wives stands the “one wife” of the Church.—   
 apiece. This was in the middle of the The view then which must I think bo