

διάκονος - deacon

(Friberg) **διάκονος**, ου, ὁ and ἡ (1) generally of a person who renders helpful service *servant, helper* (MT 20.26; possibly RO 16.1); (2) as an official in the church; *deacon*, both masculine (1T 3.8) and feminine (probably RO 16.1); (3) as a government official *minister, agent* (RO 13.4); (4) as one who serves a high official *attendant, servant* (MT 22.13)

(UBS) **διάκονος**, ου m and f servant; helper, minister; deacon; deaconess (Ro 16.1); ἄρα Χριστὸς ἀμαρτίας δ. Does Christ serve the interests of sin? (Ga 2.17)

(L-N) 35.20 **θεράπων**, οντος m; **ὑπηρέτης**, ου m; **διάκονος**, ου m and f: (derivatives of *θεραπεύω*, *ὑπηρετέω*, and *διακονέω* 'to serve,' 35.19) a person who renders service - 'servant.' **θεράπων**: Μωϋσῆς μὲν πιστὸς ἐν ὅλῳ τῷ οἴκῳ αὐτοῦ ὡς θεράπων 'Moses was faithful in God's whole house as a servant' He 3.5. **ὑπηρέτης**: εἰς τοῦτο γὰρ ὤφθην σοι, προχειρίσασθαι σε ὑπηρέτην 'I have appeared to you to appoint you as (my) servant' Ac 26.16. In the NT **ὑπηρέτης** is employed to refer to many diverse types of servants, such as attendants to a king, officers of the Sanhedrin, attendants of magistrates, and, especially in the Gospel of John, Jewish Temple guards. **διάκονος**: ἀλλ' ὃς ἐὰν θέλῃ ἐν ὑμῖν μέγας γενέσθαι ἔσται ὑμῶν διάκονος 'if anyone of you wants to be great, he must be the servant of the rest' Mt 20.26.

In rendering **θεράπων**, **ὑπηρέτης**, and **διάκονος** in the sense of 'servant,' it is important to avoid a term which would be too specific, for example, 'one who serves meals' or 'one who works around the house.' It may, in fact, be necessary to use an expression which means essentially 'helper.'

(LS) **διάκονος** [ᾱ], Ion. **διήκονος**, ὁ, a *servant, waitingman*, Lat. minister, Hdt., etc.: a *messenger*, Aesch., Soph.:—as fem., Dem. **II**. a *minister of the church, a deacon*, N.T.: as fem. a *deaconess*, Ib. (Akin to **διάκτορος**; both perh. from **διώκω**.)

(Thayer) **διάκονος**, διακονου, ὁ, ἡ (of uncertain origin, but by no means, as was formerly thought, compounded of **διά** and **κόνις**, so as to mean, properly, 'raising dust by hastening'; cf. **ἐγκόνειν**; for the alpha in the preposition **διά** is short, in **διάκονος**, long. Alexander Buttmann (1873) Lexil. i., p. 218ff (English translation, p. 231f) thinks it is derived from the obsolete **διαίκω** equivalent to **διήκω** (allied with **διώκω**; cf. Vanicek, p. 363)); *one who executes the commands of another, especially of a master; a sergeant, attendant, minister*;

1. universally: of the servant of a king, Matt. 22:13; with the genitive of the person served, Matt. 20:26; 23:11; Mark 9:35; 10:43 (in which passage it is used figuratively of those who advance others' interests even at the sacrifice of their own); τῆς ἐκκλησίας, of one who does what promotes the welfare and prosperity of the church, Col. 1:25; **διάκονοι** τοῦ Θεοῦ, those through whom God carries on his administration on earth, as magistrates, Rom. 13:4; teachers of the Christian religion, 1 Cor. 3:5; 2 Cor. 6:4; 1 Thess. 3:2 R T Tr WH text L marginal reading; the same are called **διάκονοι** (τοῦ) Χριστοῦ, 2 Cor. 11:23; Col. 1:7; 1 Tim. 4:6; ἐν κυρίῳ, in the cause of the Lord, Col. 4:7; (Eph. 6:21); ὁ διάκονος μου, my follower, John 12:26; τοῦ Σατανᾶ, whom Satan uses as a servant, 2 Cor. 11:15; (ἀμαρτίας, Gal. 2:17); διάκονος περιτομῆς (abstract for concrete), of Christ, who labored for the salvation of the circumcised, i. e. the Jews, Rom. 15:8; with the genitive of the thing to which service is rendered, i. e. to which one is devoted: καινῆς διαθήκης, 2 Cor. 3:6; τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, Eph. 3:7; Col. 1:23; δικαιοσύνης, 2 Cor. 11:15.

2. a *deacon*, one who, by virtue of the office assigned him by the church, cares for the poor and has charge of and distributes the money collected for their use (cf. BB. DD., Dict. of Christ. Antiq., Schaff-Herzog under the word Deacon; Lightfoot's Commentary on Philippians, dissert. i. sec. i.; Julius Muller, Dogmatische Abhandlungen, p. 560ff): Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:8,12, cf. Acts 6:3ff; ἡ διάκονος, a *deaconess (ministra*, Pliny, epistles 10, 97), a woman to whom the care of either poor or sick women was entrusted, Rom. 16:1 (cf. Dictionaries as above, under the word Deaconess; Lightfoot as above, p. 191; B. D. under the word Phoebe).

3. a *waiter, one who serves food and drink*: John 2:5,9, as in Xenophon, mem. 1, 5, 2; Hier. 3, 11 (4, 2); Polybius 31, 4, 5; Lucian, de merced. cond. sec. 26; Athen. 7, p. 291 a.; 10, 420 e.; see **διακονέω**, 2 and **διακονία**, 5; (also Wetstein (1752) on Matt. 4:11).*

(Synonyms: **διάκονος**, δοῦλος, **θεράπων**, **ὑπηρέτης**: "**διάκονος** represents the servant in his activity for the work; not in his relation, either servile, as that of the δοῦλος, or more voluntary, as in the case of the **θεράπων**, to a person" Trench; yet cf. e. g. Rom. 13:4; 2 Cor. 6:4 etc.). δοῦλος opposed to ἐλεύθερος, and correlate to δεσπότης or κύριος, denotes a *bondman*, one who sustains a permanent servile relation to another. **θεράπων** is the voluntary performer of services, whether as a freeman or a slave; it is a nobler, tenderer word than δοῦλος. **ὑπηρέτης** according to its etymol. suggests subordination. Cf. Trench, sec. ix.; B. D. under the word Minister; Meyer on Eph. 3:7; Schmidt, chapter 164.)

Matthew 20:26 "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

οὐχ οὕτως ἔσται ἐν ὑμῖν, ἀλλ' ὃς ἐὰν θέλῃ ἐν ὑμῖν μέγας γενέσθαι ἔσται ὑμῶν διάκονος,

Matthew 22:13 "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

τότε ὁ βασιλεὺς εἶπεν τοῖς διακόνοις· δήσαντες αὐτοῦ πόδας καὶ χεῖρας ἐκβάλετε αὐτὸν εἰς τὸ σκότος τὸ ἐξώτερον· ἐκεῖ ἔσται ὁ κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὁ βρυγμὸς τῶν ὀδόντων.

Matthew 23:11 "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

ὁ δὲ μείζων ὑμῶν ἔσται ὑμῶν διάκονος.

Mark 9:35 And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

καὶ καθίσας ἐφώνησεν τοὺς δώδεκα καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· εἴ τις θέλει πρῶτος εἶναι, ἔσται πάντων ἔσχατος καὶ πάντων διάκονος.

Mark 10:43 "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.

οὐχ οὕτως δέ ἐστιν ἐν ὑμῖν, ἀλλ' ὅς ἂν θέλῃ μέγας γενέσθαι ἐν ὑμῖν ἔσται ὑμῶν διάκονος,

John 2:5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do *it*."

λέγει ἡ μήτηρ αὐτοῦ τοῖς διακόνοις· ὅ τι ἂν λέγῃ ὑμῖν ποιήσατε.

John 2:9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom.

ὥς δὲ ἐγεύσατο ὁ ἀρχιτρικλινὸς τὸ ὕδωρ οἶνον γεγεννημένον καὶ οὐκ ᾔδει πόθεν ἐστίν, οἱ δὲ διάκονοι ᾔδεισαν οἱ ἡντληκότες τὸ ὕδωρ, φωνεῖ τὸν νυμφίον ὁ ἀρχιτρικλινὸς

John 12:26 "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him *My Father* will honor.

ἐὰν ἐμοὶ τις διακονῇ, ἐμοὶ ἀκολουθεῖτω, καὶ ὅπου εἰμὶ ἐγὼ ἐκεῖ καὶ ὁ διάκονος ὁ ἐμὸς ἔσται· ἐὰν τις ἐμοὶ διακονῇ τιμήσει αὐτὸν ὁ πατήρ.

Romans 13:4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to *execute* wrath on him who practices evil.

θεοῦ γὰρ διάκονός ἐστιν σοὶ εἰς τὸ ἀγαθόν. ἐὰν δὲ τὸ κακὸν ποιῇς, φοβοῦ· οὐ γὰρ εἰκὴ τὴν μάχαιραν φορεῖ· θεοῦ γὰρ διάκονός ἐστιν ἔκδικος εἰς ὀργὴν τῷ τὸ κακὸν πράσσοντι.

Romans 15:8 Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* to the fathers,

λέγω γὰρ Χριστὸν διάκονον γεγενῆσθαι περιτομῆς ὑπὲρ ἀληθείας θεοῦ, εἰς τὸ βεβαιῶσαι τὰς ἐπαγγελίας τῶν πατέρων,

Romans 16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea,

Συνίστημι δὲ ὑμῖν Φοίβην τὴν ἀδελφὴν ἡμῶν, οὖσαν [καὶ] διάκονον τῆς ἐκκλησίας τῆς ἐν Κεγχρεαῖς,

1 Corinthians 3:5 Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

Τί οὖν ἐστιν Ἀπολλῶς; τί δὲ ἐστιν Παῦλος; διάκονοι δι' ὧν ἐπιστεύσατε, καὶ ἐκάστῳ ὡς ὁ κύριος ἔδωκεν.

2 Corinthians 3:6 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

ὃς καὶ ἱκάνωσεν ἡμᾶς διακόνοὺς καινῆς διαθήκης, οὐ γράμματος ἀλλὰ πνεύματος· τὸ γὰρ γράμμα ἀποκτείνει, τὸ δὲ πνεῦμα ζωοποιεῖ.

2 Corinthians 6:4 But in all *things* we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,

ἀλλ' ἐν παντὶ συνιστάντες ἑαυτοὺς ὡς θεοῦ διάκονοι, ἐν ὑπομονῇ πολλῇ, ἐν θλίψεσιν, ἐν ἀνάγκαις, ἐν στενοχωρίαις,

2 Corinthians 11:15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

οὐ μέγα οὖν εἰ καὶ οἱ διάκονοι αὐτοῦ μετασχηματίζονται ὡς διάκονοι δικαιοσύνης· ὧν τὸ τέλος ἔσται κατὰ τὰ ἔργα αὐτῶν.

2 Corinthians 11:23 Are they ministers of Christ? -- I speak as a fool -- I *am* more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.

διάκονοι Χριστοῦ εἰσιν; παραφρονῶν λαλῶ, ὑπὲρ ἐγώ· ἐν κόποις περισσοτέρως, ἐν φυλακαῖς περισσοτέρως, ἐν πληγαῖς ὑπερβαλλόντως, ἐν θανάτοις πολλάκις.

Galatians 2:17 "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, *is* Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not!

εἰ δὲ ζητοῦντες δικαιωθῆναι ἐν Χριστῷ εὐρέθημεν καὶ αὐτοὶ ἁμαρτωλοί, ἄρα Χριστὸς ἁμαρτίας διάκονος; μὴ γένοιτο.

Ephesians 3:7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

οὗ ἐγενήθην διάκονος κατὰ τὴν δωρεὰν τῆς χάριτος τοῦ θεοῦ τῆς δοθείσης μοι κατὰ τὴν ἐνέργειαν τῆς δυνάμεως αὐτοῦ.

Ephesians 6:21 But that you also may know my affairs *and* how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you;

Ἵνα δὲ εἰδῆτε καὶ ὑμεῖς τὰ κατ' ἐμέ, τί πράσσω, πάντα γνωρίσει ὑμῖν Τύχικος ὁ ἀγαπητὸς ἀδελφὸς καὶ πιστὸς διάκονος ἐν κυρίῳ,

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Παῦλος καὶ Τιμόθεος δοῦλοι Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ πᾶσιν τοῖς ἁγίοις ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ τοῖς οὖσιν ἐν Φιλίπποις σὺν ἐπισκόποις καὶ διακόνοις,

Colossians 1:7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,

καθὼς ἐμάθετε ἀπὸ Ἐπαφρᾶ τοῦ ἀγαπητοῦ συνδούλου ἡμῶν, ὅς ἐστιν πιστὸς ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν διάκονος τοῦ Χριστοῦ,

Colossians 1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

εἰ γὰρ ἐπιμένετε τῇ πίστει τεθεμελιωμένοι καὶ ἐδραῖοι καὶ μὴ μετακινούμενοι ἀπὸ τῆς ἐλπίδος τοῦ εὐαγγελίου οὗ ἠκούσατε, τοῦ κηρυχθέντος ἐν πάσῃ κτίσει τῇ ὑπὸ τὸν οὐρανόν, οὗ ἐγενόμην ἐγὼ Παῦλος διάκονος.

Colossians 1:25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,

ἧς ἐγενόμην ἐγὼ διάκονος κατὰ τὴν οἰκονομίαν τοῦ θεοῦ τὴν δοθεῖσάν μοι εἰς ὑμᾶς πληρῶσαι τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ,

Colossians 4:7 Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me.

Τὰ κατ' ἐμέ πάντα γνωρίσει ὑμῖν Τύχικος ὁ ἀγαπητὸς ἀδελφὸς καὶ πιστὸς διάκονος καὶ σύνδουλος ἐν κυρίῳ,

1 Timothy 3:8 Likewise deacons *must be* reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money,

Διακόνους ὡσαύτως σεμνοὺς, μὴ διλόγους, μὴ οἶνω πολλῷ προσέχοντας, μὴ αἰσχροκερδεῖς,

1 Timothy 3:12 Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling *their* children and their own houses well.

διάκονοι ἔστωσαν μιᾶς γυναικὸς ἄνδρες, τέκνων καλῶς προϊστάμενοι καὶ τῶν ἰδίων οἴκων.

1 Timothy 4:6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.

Ταῦτα ὑποτιθέμενος τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς καλὸς ἔση διάκονος Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ, ἐντρεφόμενος τοῖς λόγοις τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς καλῆς διδασκαλίας ἣν παρηκολούθηκας·