

- f. “The Deacons shall have the care of the physical properties and the finances of the Church and shall hold themselves in readiness to assist in guiding the spiritual life of the Church, ministering its ordinances and performing any necessary calling. They shall have the oversight of the ushering in all regular and special services. They shall endeavor by God’s grace to live and serve in full conformity with the standards set forth in this constitution for their particular office and especially as found in the Word of God (Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13).” (MBC Constitution Article X, Section 2-A).
- g. The deacons assisted, served, the local assembly of believers in harmony with the elders. They relieved the load on the elders by handling the business affairs internal and external, attending to the temporal and physical needs of the believers as they worked together under the Lord Jesus and His Word. They released the elders so that they might attend to the spiritual movement and needs of the believers. See Acts 6:1-4.
- h. Both elders and deacons would be involved in the physical, mental and spiritual LIFE of the assembly.

FOR MORE DETAILED HELP ON OFFICERS AND OFFICES YOU ARE REFERRED TO OUR CHURCH CONSTITUTION AND ALSO TO PREPARED SHEETS, “THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND THE NOMINATING PROCEDURE.” See also our study, *Qualifications of Elders and Deacons*.

## E. The Practice of the Local Assembly

### 1. The Worship Service

#### a. What is worship?

- i. The word used most often in the New Testament for worship (*proskuneo*) involves a bowing down, reverencing oneself. It means to submit oneself to God, to acknowledge God, to acknowledge oneself in subjection to God, to recognize God in all His power and glory as the Creator and the Judge. It is to acknowledge His exclusive sovereign rights and claims upon you and thus to exult, praise, adore, celebrate Him.

**Matthew 2:1-2,11** Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came \_\_\_\_\_ from the east to Jerusalem, (2) Saying, Where is he that is born \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him... (11) And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell \_\_\_\_\_, and W\_\_\_\_\_ Him...

Revelation 4:8-11 And the four beasts (living creatures... rest not day and night, saying, \_\_\_\_\_, Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come. (9) And when those beasts (living creatures) give \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, (10) The four and twenty elders \_\_\_\_\_ before him that sat on the throne, and \_\_\_\_\_ him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, (11) Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; for Thou hast \_\_\_\_\_ things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were \_\_\_\_\_.

See also Matthew 4:9-10; 9:18; 14:33; John 4:20-24; Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 5:14; 7:11; 11:16; 19:4,10; 22:8-9; etc.

- ii. A second word used for worship (*latreus*) has the idea of rendering religious service or homage to. It is used in connection with the service of the priests with respect to the tabernacle. It is most often translated "serve" in the New Testament, and is the duty of the redeemed, the delivered. Service proceeds from within and outward, in the direction of God, by the grace of God.

Matthew 4:9-10 ...All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship (*proskuneo*) me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou \_\_\_\_\_ (*latreuo*).

Luke 2:37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but \_\_\_\_\_ with fastings and prayers \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifice, \_\_\_\_\_, acceptable unto \_\_\_\_\_, which is your reasonable \_\_\_\_\_.

Hebrews 12:28-29 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have \_\_\_\_\_, whereby we may \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ and godly \_\_\_\_\_: For our God is a consuming fire.

- iii. A third word used for worship in the New Testament (*sebomai*) means to revere or reverence. It stresses the feeling of awe or devotion. It involves a shrinking back in fear, awe. It is sometimes used of a zeal that is not according to Truth. See Matthew 15:7-9, Acts 16:14; 18:13, worship; Acts 13:43, religious; Acts 13:50, devout; 17:4,17.
  
- iv. Worship therefore involves a falling down, a subservience, submission. Worship belongs to the Lord alone. It is a recognition or realization of His power and authority. It involves the internal attitude of the heart more than the external place though it must be in accord with God's written revelation. Worship is the duty of the angels, and of those who are delivered. Worship involves the devotion of the whole being. Worship is possible because of and by means of the grace of God. Worship involves seriousness and zeal. Worship is paying attention to God!
  
- v. W. E. Vine: "The worship of God is nowhere defined in Scripture. A consideration of the above verbs shows that it is not confined to praise; broadly it may be regarded as the direct acknowledgement of God, of His nature, attributes, ways and claims, whether by the outgoing of the heart in praise and thanksgiving or by the deeds done in such acknowledgement."
  
- b. A worship service might include ORGAN PRELUDE: a silent, still time for meditation, prayer and heart preparation (Psalm 46:10; 19:14); DOXOLOGY: an expression of praise to God (*doxa* is the Greek word for glory); INVOCATION: a worshipful invoking or calling upon God for His help and His blessing upon the service; FIRST HYMN: an emphasis upon worship, God-centered, praise-filled; SCRIPTURE READING: a public reading of God's Word often based on or relating to the morning text (1 Timothy 4:13); PASTORAL PRAYER: the shepherd praying in the Name of the Great Shepherd for and on behalf of the sheep; SECOND HYMN: seeking to move our minds in a Godward direction--looking unto Jesus, the cross, the empty tomb, etc; OFFERING: A reminder that all that I am and have belongs to Christ and is to be presented to Him (1 Cor 6:19-20, Rom 12:1-2, 2 Cor 8:5); CHOIR: psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs as a means of bringing out God's message and God's Words (Col 3:16). THIRD HYMN: generally preparatory to the message; MESSAGE: worship God with our minds and allowing God's Word to teach us, rebuke us, correct us, instruct us and change us; CLOSING HYMN: a thoughtful opportunity for every person to respond positively to the message in their heart and for some to respond even publicly if God would have it; BENEDICTION: a final concluding word, entrusting every soul to God's care and looking for His mighty working (Heb 13:20-21).