

CHURCH: THE WORSHIP ASSEMBLY

"Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end,"
Ephesians 3:21.

Are you a secure Christian? One, with enough flaws, that an occasional remark has a hypocritical tone to it? Do you keep on ticking or, does it truly bother you that they saw one or two of your short comings, amid all those virtuous qualities you possess?

It's true that every church member feels hypocritical, at times. This is especially so when we think about all the teaching that we, simply, fail to do. Those sins of commission and, even more, sins of omission, convict us; even without accusing remarks.

We do, however, continue on. We must never stop doing the Christian routine. Continuing on, never yielding to fleshly thoughts, is a good thing that we have to do - a very necessary thing that must be done.

On-going, Spiritual obedience, enables us to maintain a spiritual correctness; even, when we don't feel like doing them. We have learned that obedience works just like prayer. By doing what is expected, we are taken out of the picture, and the focus is placed squarely upon Jesus.

Obedience, when it's by faith - and only when it motivated by faith - speaks to our character. Children of the day do things that please the Father and make us accepted in the Beloved.

It is Faith that begins the kind of motion which, always brings about the desire to obey; go the extra mile, pray without ceasing, etc. Obedience is faith in action.

How can we feel hypocritical; yet, at the same time, continue on strong in service to the LORD? With certainty, we know our religious habits aren't the answer.

Missionary Baptists don't like to speak of habits, at all. We are first in line to deny that any act we do has any merit; by itself. We do not believe in sacraments. It is by faith, and faith alone, that pleases the LORD.

Therefore, when it comes to those feelings of failure, we rest in the finished work of Christ. While, we are always aware of our shortcomings, **"walking in the light as He is in the light"** (I Jn 1:7), removes the doubt that seems to be ever-present. Faith will not allow doubtful disputations.

Christians see with "eyes of faith." And, there is nothing that makes the light of faith brighter, than **"assembling of ourselves" together** (He 10:25).

Not assembling, as Hebrews 10:25 goes on to say, is the **"habit of some."** And, Missionary Baptists do not like to speak of habits; not, at all.

In the assembly, we are lifted up beyond all those worldly thoughts. And, the controlling effect continues upon us during the remainder of the week. It is an amazing upward lift, with enough power to carry us over this world, on a daily basis. Like Peter, we walk above the waters of life. Just one worship service

provides enough thrust to do this. But, three worship services, of course, excels in power.

Worship is designed that way. The Worship Service places a correct "worth" within our spirits. It is a "worth," a "value" - better defining what "glory" is, causing us to look to *"...Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or thing"* (Eph 3:20).

The Worship Assembly ignites the "therefore" of *"...not losing heart"* (2 Cor 4:16). In the Assembly, Worship correctly compares the "outer" and "inner man," drawing us to *"...an eternal wealth of glory far beyond all comparison,"* 2 Cor. 4:17.

Further, the Worship Assembly offers the best vantage point for believers that are *"looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,"* Titus 2:13.

In the assembly, every part of the worship service delivers help for removing ourselves out of the world. Strength comes in every verse of Scripture read and each prayer offered.

A wonderful portion of the Worship Service is singing praises to the LORD. The Song Service is note-worthy, as worshippers announce God's glory, vocally and with oneness. Every high note may not be clear but, with each lyric, refrain and chorus sung; believers are taken to a higher ground.

The Song Service is preaching in music. Therefore, the message, in song, must be in tune with the rest of the service. There is power in the blood sounds just as wonderfully sung, as it is preached from the pulpit.

When the last Amen is said, and the under shepherd shakes hands with the flock, an agreement has taken place and a covenant stricken. God has been honored. Leaving the Worship Assembly, every person knows fully that all of God's righteousness has been placed within the Person of Christ.

It's a glorious and worthy moment; thus, just before we leave, let's look to the Song Leader once, again. As he brings his arm down, lets - from the heart and in unison - humbly confess that Jesus is "The Solid Rock."

**"Our hope is built on nothing less,
than Jesus Christ and Righteousness."**