

We find by a reference to the 13th chapter of the Acts, that Paul and Barnabas, after they had "fulfilled their ministry at Jerusalem," returned to Antioch, where the brethren were collected together to hold a conference or Christian council. Here, by the direction of the Holy Ghost, the Church selected Paul and Barnabas, and they were ordained by prayer and imposition of hands, and again sent away upon a more general visitation, having been set apart to that special work, and "they took with them" John Mark, as "their minister" or assistant.

Dr. Clarke is of the opinion that Simeon, Lucius, and Manaen were the disciples who laid their hands on Paul and Barnabas at the time of this special ordination service, when these two ministers of Jesus Christ were sent out as General Superintendents of the great work now committed to their trust.

It is not at all likely that this was the first ordination of either Barnabas or Paul, because they had been preachers for years prior to this event. It will be remembered that Barnabas was an old disciple, and that he introduced Paul to the brethren at Jerusalem about three years after his conversion.

By consulting 1 Timothy ii. 7, we are informed by Paul himself, that he had been ordained a *preacher, and an Apostle*, and yet he was ordained to a special work at Antioch. And we learn further that not only was it the business of Paul and Barnabas to preach, raise up and confirm the churches, but to ordain Elders in every church. Acts xiv. 23. And such is the office work of our Bishops. They are appointed to travel through the work as extensively as possible, preach the word, preside at the Conferences, or councils of the Church, and ordain the brethren that the Church may recommend as suitable persons to minister to the people.

Paul, in his epistles to Timothy and Titus, clearly conveys the idea of distinction between the position of Deacons and that of Elders, although both had a right to preach and baptize. Yet Elders were evidently considered superior in point of order to Deacons, while Bishops and Elders were clearly the same in ministerial order, and at the same time some of the Elders or Presbyters had a more general oversight of the work than others, as in the case of Paul himself, for he had "the care of all the churches." He was in fact a General Superintendent in the Methodist acceptance of that term. He was the same in order with his brethren the Apostles, but superior to some of them in office or jurisdiction. And this is all that has ever been claimed for our Bishops; nor is there anything assuming in the title of Bishop more than in that of Elder. He is simply an overseer—an equal in orders, but a superior in office, by the suffrage or consent of his brethren. And surely there can be nothing arrogant in the acceptance of such a position at the choice of the General Conference or council of the Church. To