

this tradition is trust worthy and really comes from the Apostles ?

— Precisely, if this point were made more clear, it would help Protestants out of their difficulty more than anything.

We have already gone over that ground. The visible Church of this day is simply a continuation of that original society coming down in unbroken succession, which received the first teaching of the Apostles, confirmed as it was by miracles, and by the evidence of those who had known Jesus and had received the evidences at first-hand of His life and miracles, death and resurrection, and of His explicit claim to be the Almighty God in human shape. The whole of these evidences created both in the minds, of the Apostles themselves and their disciples, an overwhelming conviction of the authority of their teachers and of the truth of what they taught. Now that which they taught was derived wholly from the tradition of a body of facts and doctrines, of which they, the Apostles, were the sole depositories, and which they taught in the name of their Divine Master, as teachers supernaturally guaranteed by heaven. After a time, a portion of their teaching, a mere outline as it must have been, came to be written down or guaranteed by some of the Apostles. These writings were scattered through the different Churches in detached documents, in the form in which they had originally been written at the instance of particular individuals, or at the special need of particular Churches. In the course of time the Apostles died, who had been the immediate recipients of the revelation, and after that no more writings of such authority as these original documents were ever composed. These were known under the name of The Scriptures, or Apostolic Writings, since they had been written by and under the direction of Apostles. These Scriptures were therefore committed to, and rested on the tradition of an infallible Church.

And here we see at once the difference between the divine tradition of the Church itself and the human tradition of particular Churches. — In process of time there came to be many documents besides those we now count as inspired, venerated as such in some Churches, and in others rejected. There were