

who were Bishops before him. There is the same testimony and the same authority with that which we have for the authenticity of the Sacred Scriptures.

And thus, the Apostolic office has been constantly preserved, those who first succeeded to it, as Theodoric one of the early writers informs us, having left, as a mark of honor, the *name* of Apostle to those who first held it, and retained the title of Bishop, with the office transmitted to them from the Apostles, of governing the Church and ordaining and sending forth its Ministers.

And surely, we may learn from History, some lessons which testify the value of that Apostolic Office and Ministry, which our Lord instituted, and with which He promised to be even unto the end of the world.

In some cases that Ministry has been marred by diminution, in others by addition. It has been marred by diminution, by those bodies of Christians, who have confined the Ministry to the second order, which was subordinate to the Apostles, and thus have departed from that Apostolic Office with which our Lord promised his continued presence. And the sad result has been, that many of those bodies, have lost, to a very great extent, the faith of the Gospel, that the cardinal doctrines of Christianity, the Divinity and Atonement of our blessed Lord, have passed away from their belief.

Thus it has been with the descendants of those who first separated from the Church in England two hundred years ago, and whose representatives now have lost the knowledge and belief of the Divinity and sacrificial death of our Lord.

Thus it has been with very many of the Children of those who emigrated to this Western World, and in New England established their peculiar religious organizations; and thus it has been to a great extent, also, in those Countries of Europe, Germany and Switzerland, where those organizations first had their origin.

And when, on the other hand, we consider that instance in which the Apostolic Ministry has been marred by an unauthorised addition thereto, by imposing upon it an unscriptural authority, supreme and absolute over all, what has been the result? The pure faith of the Gospel has been corrupted and overwhelmed by a multitude of errors and superstitions, the gracious way of Salvation through faith in Christ, has been obscured, and a spiritual slavery has been imposed upon the minds and consciences of men.

Thus, unauthorized addition has proved to be the despotism of religion; as unauthorized diminution has been productive of anarchy, and loss of some of the essential articles of the faith. May we hence be enabled to learn the value of that Apostolic Ministry which has been preserved by Divine Providence in our Church, may we guard and cherish it as the Divinely appointed safe-guard of pure and undefiled religion.

Thus have we endeavoured to set before you the authority of the Ministry in the Church, its Divine institution and its transmission from the Apostles down to our times. by uninterrupted Succession.