

A difficulty of another nature is sometimes stated against the practice of weekly communion which is, that as churches are often destitute of pastors, such churches could not then steadily attend to it; the persons making this objection of course considering that it would be improper for any one to administer the ordinance but an ordained pastor; admitting the justness of this conclusion, it can be no argument for churches not attending to it every Lord's day, when practicable — But as the difficulty alluded to, is of frequent occurrence, it becomes practically important, that we may act in faith, to know what the Bible directs as our duty in such cases, for as it would be highly presumptuous and criminal for any one to attend to any ordinance, in circumstances, wherein the word of God forbids it; so it evidently would be equally so, for churches to neglect and set aside so important an institution as the Lord's Supper, for unscriptural reasons, merely of man's devising. — A learned writer on this subject observes, "what they can conceive to be in that ordinance either in the blessing or giving of thanks which accompanies it, or in the distribution of the bread and wine among the disciples, which makes the presence of Elders more necessary to it, than in praise, or prayer or reading, or mutual exhortation, &c. it is hard to say; few principles of scripture seen more plain than this; that there is no church of Christ, where the disciples do not meet together on the first day of the week, to break bread; now if they cannot lawfully do this without Elders, they never can have Elders, and never can be a church. For scriptural Elders never were co-eval with the church, to the oversight of which they were called, but were brethren, proved in a course of previous walking together as a christian church, and found to be fitted for the service; and is it not inconsistent, that a church destitute of Elders is precluded from observing the Lord's Supper, un-