

Well, Master Peter (said George rather sharply), I don't know that you are so much better off than I am. I didn't know that you were so learned a scholar!

Peter: That is just it, George. I am no better scholar than yourself: and, therefore in these matters I go to the proper quarter.

George: And what is the proper quarter?

Peter: Well, I go to the Church, for everybody knows that Christ said to His Apostles, *he that heareth you heareth Me: and he that despiseth you, despiseth Me.** And if a man will not hear the Church, let him be to thee as the heathen and publican. †

George: Ah! Now I did think you were going to help me a bit; but you have landed me in the mud as deep as I was before. I have just bought Whitaker's Almanack for this year, and I'm blessed if there are not 231 different religions, or churches, as some folks call them, in the country of ours. How am I to know which is the right one?

Peter: Before I answer that, George, let me ask you one or two questions. Why did Christ come into the world at all?

George: Oh, I think I can answer you there! Why to redeem us from our sins, and to teach us the way to heaven.

Peter: And now, what do you mean by *the Church*?

George: I can't put it quite right at once. I have not thought about it. There are plenty of churches and chapels all over the country, but I don't mean one of them.

Peter: Well, I will tell you what I mean by *the Church*: and I think that you will agree with me. You have just told me that one of the reasons why Christ came into the world, was to teach us the way to heaven, and there I agree with you. The Acts tell us that He remained only forty days on the earth after His resurrection. Now in order to keep up His teaching He established a kind of club, or society, or church, or spiritual kingdom as He sometimes calls it.

George: And a very good way it is, too!

* St. Luke x 16.

† St. Matt. xviii. 17.