

learned from their Pastor, and which have proved so beneficial to themselves.

But, perhaps, it may be thought by some persons that in following the course of instruction here recommended, we are giving undue prominence to Church teaching, and putting the Church in place of Christ in our ministrations. But there will be no danger of committing so fatal an error as this, if we follow the Church as *far as she follows Christ*. When we consider that all the means of grace derive their value and efficacy from the merits of Christ's atonement, and have been appointed by Him for the salvation of His people, we cannot estimate them too highly, nor apply them too faithfully. Without Christ, all our preaching would be in vain; prayer would be useless; the holy Sacraments valueless, mere unmeaning ceremonies, without life, or power, or efficacy, and conveying no grace or benefit to the soul. But by virtue of His precious death and sufferings, His glorious resurrection and ascension, *they* are made the channels through which flow the richest gifts of God to man, preparing us for the enjoyment of His presence in heaven. As well might the glorious orb of day, the material sun in the heavens, be blotted out of existence, as Christ Jesus the Lord be omitted in the preaching and teaching of His ministers. He is the Head, the Church is His Body, we are His members; and as life and nourishment are diffused from the head to the members, so Christ, our living Head, sheds down the