

Word and God's Church are the means appointed for our salvation, and it is by the loving, trusting, reverent and devout use of both that we are alone warranted in believing that we shall really be ready for the judgment of the great day. It is because we fail to understand and to use both, that christianity displays the melancholy spectacle which it now exhibits, and that the standard of our spiritual life is so wretchedly low and stunted.

We, who through God's great mercy have been led to a fuller, firmer grasp of these truths, have a high mission to fulfil, though its nature is often grotesquely misunderstood. People look at our love for the decencies of divine worship, at our efforts to adorn the house of prayer, or to bear ourselves devoutly in the presence of the Most High, and they think and say that these outward things are all we care for. They seem incapable of comprehending that these things are but the outermost fringe of our inner life, the mere trivial external indications of our having, through God's grace, been awakened to the unspeakable importance of an awfully forgotten part of God's eternal Truth. The great mission which has been divinely committed to us is to make men recognize the great fact that the means by which we are to be brought into union, and kept in real close living communion with the Lord, is through the instrumentality of His Body the Church. Men at this day profess to value the Word of God; but losing, as they have done, its true meaning, they begin to doubt its authority, and it is our work to make them see that in the Church of God we have a divinely authorized interpreter of the Word of God, and that by the combined action of both we are to be saved from error of doctrine, and viciousness of life, and made ready for the day of judgment. We shall be (as we are) denounced and suspected, feared, and calumniated, as was our Master of old, but we *shall* succeed as surely as truth gains