

city has either been an intolerable yoke, or an object of adoration.

Besides, that we may rightly understand the qualifications, duties, and office of Elders, it is also necessary we ever keep in view what Churches of Christ are. No societies deserve the name of Churches of Christ, but such as are composed of believers, as the first were: "Holy brethren, partakers of the Heavenly calling;" "justified and sanctified;" and thus separated from the world lying in the wicked one: or, as Peter beautifully expresses it, "Lively stones, built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God, by Jesus Christ." 1st Epistle ii. 5. It is in such societies alone that pastors according to God's heart (Jer. iii. 15.) can be valued, or exercise their gifts to edification. No other communities submit to divine authority in what they do, nor assemble to be edified in the way of God.

In treating of the Elder's office, it will perhaps be best to bring into one view, what the Scriptures immediately say on the subject; from which we may deduce the qualifications of Elders, the way of obtaining them, their ordination, duties, and support, and the necessity of a presbytery in every Church."

## THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

### No. 3.

#### THE JEWISH INSTITUTION.

In this age of improvement in divine institutions, we read and hear much of "two dispensations of the covenant of grace;" thus making the Jewish and the Christian institutions dispensations of one "covenant of grace." This is but "a *show of wisdom*." The Holy Spirit calls them "two covenants," or "two institutions," and not two modifications of one covenant; and it speaks of each as established upon promises. The Jewish was established upon temporal and earthly promises, contained in the first promise made to Abraham; but the new, says Paul, "is established upon *better promises*," growing out of that concerning the *blessing of the nations* in the promised seed. Jer. xxxi. 31.

The Jewish institution commenced and continued about 1500 years before the reign of Heaven began. It was not substituted for the family worship, but added to it. In four hundred years the family of Abraham had, in the line of Isaac and Jacob, in fulfilment of the first promise, grown up into millions. Not