

before the New Testament was written, and before the Christian Church had any organization, except in its ministry. The ministry had its mission and its commission from Christ, before the Church had any organic form whatever.

Here was the Church of Christ: a kingdom on earth; a *visible* kingdom among men; for here was the WORD: the written Word of the Old Testament, and the unwritten Word of the New Testament. Here were the Sacraments, and here was the Ministry. This was the CHRISTIAN CHURCH, and nothing else was. None mistook it; none could mistake it. The believers readily recognized it, and entered it; and the enemies of God had no difficulty in finding it, that they might persecute it. Here was a Christian ministry with their commissions fresh from God. Here was the seal of the covenant, direct from the hand of Christ. Here, then, was the line drawn by the finger of God, around the Kingdom of his Son, that marked, with living light, the boundaries which separated it from the kingdom of darkness, and from all organizations of men, for all future ages.