

could be orally handed down, pure and unimpaired, in letter and spirit, even through one generation ; and if so, what must be said as to all the fluctuations and changes of nearly two thousand years. Under the preceding dispensation, the laws and precepts, given directly by God himself, were by the divine command, committed to writing, by Moses ; and the like command was given, that the people should be taught *out of them* ; and that they should preserve and constantly study them, and teach them diligently to their children throughout all generations. In the Psalms, Proverbs and other books of these Scriptures, the *law*, *similes*, and *testimonies*, are mentioned as fully sufficient for instruction and guidance. As regards our glorious and vastly superior gospel system, divine wisdom foresaw that the truths conveyed by inspired *oral* teaching, if left unrecorded, among frail and fallible men, would inevitably, very soon, either be entirely lost, or be impaired, or totally corrupted. Divine benevolence, therefore, so arranged, that the whole of the truths of that gracious system were committed to writing, during the same generation in which they were taught by our Lord, and his inspired Apostles.

In the New Testament, as in the Old, there are passages showing the perfect sufficiency of the Scriptures as a complete, and the only rule for Christian faith and conduct. In reference to all the Scriptures, it is said in Rom. xv. 4, "Whatever things were *written* aforetime were written for our learning, that we, through patience and comfort of the Scriptures, might have hope." Also in Cor. x. 11, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples, and they are *written* for *our admonition*, upon whom the ends of the world are come." Then, as to the New Testament (John. xx. 31), "These are *written* that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, ye might have life through his name." This gospel alone, contains nearly every Christian doctrine. As to the book of Acts, many of the most important doctrines are clearly set forth in it. —In Romans xv. 15, the Apostle says : "I have written the more boldly unto you, in some sort, as putting you in mind." And of what was he putting them in mind, but of the divine truths contained in the Epistle, which, as may be seen, contains many of