

testimony because you are with me from the beginning." In these texts there is manifestly question about the doctrine of the Saviour, which is to be perpetuated to the end of time by a living ministry. Does Christ here say to his Apostles; "Sit down and write my Gospel, and state therein that the fundamental rule of faith and practice consists in the reading of it. Scatter Bibles throughout the length and breadth of the land, in order that from them alone man may learn my religion." Indeed, he does not. If Christ had said any such thing Christianity would have never existed on earth. Confusion would have reigned supreme. It requires all the consummate cleverness of modern sectarianism to deduce Bible worship and free Bible interpretation from such violent passages of Scripture. However, it is objected that Jesus Christ did say—John v. 39; "Search the Scriptures, for ye think ye have life everlasting in them, and the same they are that give testimony to me." Most assuredly Christ did utter these words, but still they prove nothing in favor of the rule of faith as it is understood by Protestants. In the first, it is far from certain that a formal command is implied by these words; for the Greek word translated by the English word search, stands for the indicative as well as the imperative, and many readings of the passage run thus: 'Ye searce,' etc. But let us grant for a moment that it is a command. It was addressed not to the disciples of Jesus, but to the Scribes and Pharisees, his enemies. This is clear from the context, and the words, "for ye think ye have life everlasting in them," rebuke the doctors of the law for confiding exclusively in their knowledge of the Old Testament. Just as if Jesus said: "How can you pretend to know the Scriptures, and not recognize me as the Messiah? "And ye will not come to me that ye may have life." Whence, as you see, there is in this place no command for each individual to hear and read the New Testament according to his own manner. Since the Apostles were to give testimony of the Saviour, do you not think they, better than any one else, understood the true meaning and full import of their commission as contained in the texts I have just now recited to you? Well then, the Apostles and Disciples went forth preaching everywhere, and planted the Church of God from Judea to Spain and the Indies, but never thought of writing, and when they did write only six of them wrote anything. Whereas, if the intention of Jesus had been that man should learn his religion