

St. Peter led them immediately to be baptized. and so with all those of whom we read in the Holy Scriptures. But this could not have been, unless there had been the duly commissioned officers of the Church, authorized to baptize them, and afterwards to break to them the bread of life in the Holy Eucharist. Is any one allowed to do these things? surely not. Only those whom our Lord sent, and commissioned to send others, saying "Go ye and baptize—go ye and teach." As long, my christian brethren, as the Bible lasts, it will be a vain attempt to ignore the Church, and suppose that any half dozen people who choose to assemble together can, if they please, constitute themselves into a society for the administration of God's sacraments. Men could just as easily make a new Bible as a new Church. She is not of human, but of heavenly workmanship. She is as a ship sailing over the sea of this evil, stormy world, amid whose wild waves of sin and unbelief the souls of men are perishing. Christ, by His ministers within the ship, throws—so to speak—the rope of His ordinances to those struggling in the waters, in hope of saving them. Faith is the hand by which they lay hold upon this rope; and thus we see why it is that without faith we cannot be saved, for without it we can no more be drawn to Christ than a drowning man could, without hands, grasp the rope thrown to him in the waters. Christ is our *only* Saviour. *We*, notwithstanding all our provocations, are the sinners who, at the price of His most precious blood, He vouchsafes to save, and the means or instruments by which it pleases Him to save us are those ordinances which He has appointed in His church for this very end. He might, if He had so pleased, have appointed a thousand other means of bringing us into union with Himself; but He in His love and wisdom, has not seen fit to do so, and it will not do for us to neglect His ways for others of our own devising. God's