

reward every man according to his works; when the wicked shall be sent away into everlasting punishment, and the righteous received into life eternal: John 5, 28, 29; Rom. 2, 16; Mat. 16, 27, and 25, 46.

PART THE SECOND.

Concerning a visible Church of Christ, and its Discipline.

1. We believe that a particular visible Church of Christ, is a number of saints and people, by mutual acquaintance and communion, voluntarily and understandingly covenanting and embodying together, for upholding and promoting the worship and service of God, to show forth his declarative glory, and for their own edification: 1 Pet. 2, 5; 1 Cor. 1, 2; Acts 2, 42, 47.

2. That Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Christ, to be continued until his second coming, and that the former is requisite to the latter, that is to say, that those are to be admitted into the communion of the church, and to partake of all its ordinances and privileges, who upon profession of their faith have been baptized by immersion, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Mat. 28, 19, 20; 1 Cor. 11, 23—26; Acts 2, 41, 42, and 9, 18—26, and 8, 12, 36, 39; Mat. 3, 6—16; Rom. 6, 4; Col. 2, 12; John 3, 23; John 1, 9, 10; Acts 8, 36—39.

3. Since none but true believers can rightly partake of the ordinances, therefore the door of the church should be carefully kept against all such who cannot give scriptural evidence of their union with Christ: 1 Cor. 11, 27, 29; Mat. 7, 6, 15—20; Ezek. 44, 7, 9; Isai. 26, 2; 1 Pet. 2, 5.

4. A church thus gathered, hath power to choose, and by elders to ordain those officers that Christ hath appointed in his church, viz. Bishops or elders, and deacons: and also to depose such officers who walk contrary to the rules of the gospel; and to discipline their members, though in some such cases it may be convenient and profitable to request the advice of neighbouring churches of Christ: Acts 1, 21—26, and 6, 3—6; Num. 8, 10; Mat. 18, 15—18; Acts 15.

5. A bishop or elder hath no more power to decide any case or controversy in the church, than any private brother; yet they, having superior gifts for teaching and ruling, ought to exercise and improve the same for the benefit of the church; and the church ought to be subjected to the gifts bestowed on the minister from the Lord, while he is rightly administering in his place, whose place it is to lead in the actings of the church, and to administer the ordinances of the gospel, and devote himself to the work of teaching, warning, rebuking and exhorting the people publicly, and from house to house: Mat. 20, 25—29; 1 Peter 5, 3; Mat. 28, 19, 20; Acts 20, 20, 28, 31.

6. The deacon's office or work is to take care of the poor, and to have the oversight of the temporal affairs of the church, and to minister at the Lord's table: Acts 6, 1—5; 1 Tim. 3, 8—14.

7. Every believer is commanded to be faithful to improve every

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