

A SERMON.

1 TIMOTHY, iii., 15.—“The Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

There is a close connection, my brethren, between the Collects appointed for the first three Sundays in Advent; and it was no doubt intended that, in substance and purpose, they should have this bearing one upon the other.

We have, first, the announcement of Christ's coming; of His coming in the flesh, and His coming to judgment. This points, as we may say, to the beginning and the end of our destiny as Christians,—that heaven is our allotted inheritance, and Jesus the way to obtain it.

But this was a great truth not to be thrown rashly, and only incidentally, upon the world; it was not to be a revelation dependent merely upon traditionary recollections. A truth so important and momentous must be treasured up in the *written word*; it must be distinct and clear amongst the recorded doctrines of the Bible. So, then, we have a Sunday in Advent specially for the Holy Scriptures,—for the divine and abiding testimony to that great truth of the Lord's two-fold Advent; the truth which moulds our present, and regulates our future; which states the foundation of our hopes, and the ground of our fears; which proclaims our immortality, and tells how it may be rendered a blessed and a happy one.