

The phrase "The authority of the church," of so frequent occurrence in the papistical vocabulary, is a phrase unauthorized by the word of the Lord. The church has no authority. "There is no authority *if not from God*. But the existing authorities have been ordained by God." Rom. 13: 1. When Jesus ascended *on high* "*he gave gifts to men*." Not to men in general; but to some distinguished men. Christ, "*himself, gave indeed the Apostles, and the Prophets, and the Evangelists, and the Shepherds, and Teachers*, for the adjusting of the Consecrated, for a work of ministering—for building the body of the Anointed, until we, the whole, come into the oneness of the faith, and the thorough knowledge of the Son of God—into a full-grown man—into the measure of the stature of the full measure of the Anointed."

These gifts were bestowed for the growing time of the church. Without these the Consecrated are not adjusted for a work of ministering, for the building of the body of the Anointed. The full measure of the church, as contemplated by the Saviour, is not yet attained. We have therefore use for the Apostles, the Prophets, the Evangelists, the Shepherds and Teachers. In the Apostolic teachings and practice, and in the prophecies of the Christian Scriptures, we have the Apostles and Prophets just as the Jews had Moses and their Prophets after their death. Not so of the Evangelists, the Shepherds and Teachers. Timothy, and his associate Evangelists have left no writings to fill their places. The same is true of the Shepherds and Teachers. They could leave no writings behind them to "do the work of an Evangelist"—to "ordain Elders in every city." There was need of a Joshua after Moses died, and there were Elders of the people, and Teachers after the prophetic writings of the Old Covenant were completed. There are sinners yet to hear the good news—churches yet to be set in order—and Elders yet to be ordained with assisting Ministers. Never while there is good news to be announced to sinners, churches to be regulated or Elders to be ordained, will the Evangelic office cease. Churches, Teachers, Pastors, and Evangelists must be of equal duration.

Jesus never contemplated the conversion of the world by books. He did not publish twelve copies of the Christian Scriptures to accomplish this work. He knew that books could not travel—they could not make the people hear. He commissioned twelve Apostles who could travel, and could speak to the people; and he gave them Evangelists, and Pastors and Teachers, and the whole army of the faith to aid them.