

Zwingli vanquished Luther in argument, but the obstinate Divine of Wittenberg, wrote with chalk on the velvet cover of the moderator's table the words "*Hoc est corpus meum*," and refused to budge from their literal signification. Thus the union of Protestantism was defeated and wide-spread sacramentarianism inaugurated even within the churches of the Reformation. These two texts have been made a savour of death unto death to millions of nominal Christians. They have told mightily in the diffusion of error to the advantage of the enemies of light and godliness, as parts of the mystery of iniquity.

During the Middle Ages, the text Matthew x., 7-10, "And as ye go, preach, etc.," was blessed to two great men. The first of these was the merchant, Peter Waldo of Lyons. The sudden death of a friend at a convivial gathering, sobered his mind and led him to study the Scriptures, when our Lord's commission to His disciples became the rule of his life. The poor men of Lyons went out two by two preaching the gospel to the poor. At first they met with persecution; then the pope wished to organize them under the Church; and, when they refused to recognize his authority, he let loose the "dogs of the Lord" or Dominicans against them. Waldo heard his commission in 1180. Barely thirty years later, Francis, the son of a rich merchant of Assisi, in Italy, listened to the same injunction, and sold all. He went forth to preach penniless, cursed by his father, derided by the populace, scorned as a madman, living like an angel of mercy in a selfish world. Eighteen years he continued as a mendicant, gathering around him an army of poor preachers of the Gospel, whom, much against his will, the pope formed into the monastic order of St. Francis. He broke down in his set speech before the pope and his cardinals, but, feeding swine, singing psalms and hymns with the birds of the air, or ministering to Christ's poor, his heart was ever full and his lips overflowing. Never had the Divine commission a more humble, loving and laborious disciple.