

man and Steward of the Lord, a judicial dispenser of absolution and salvation to his fellow sinners. Hence have arisen many of the unscriptural doctrines of the Church of Rome. Because of this false assumption on the part of the Priesthood, auricular confession and priestly absolution have been introduced; penances and self-inflicted torments have been resorted to as an atonement for sin; and purgatory, with its thousands of years of torments, which are represented as being as bad as those of hell, has been brought in to finish the work of purification which that precious blood, "which cleanseth from all sin," alone can effect.

We can never be sufficiently thankful, my Brethren in the Ministry, that, at the glorious Reformation, our Church was delivered from this, among so many other delusions of the wicked one; that the true character of the Christian Ministry was vindicated, and our Lord was restored to that office, which He alone can fill; "the only and all sufficient Priest of his Church and people." Let us ever bear in mind that we are Ambassadors for Christ, that we have the ministry of reconciliation committed to us. "To wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them, and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation," and, that, therefore it is our duty to make the godly determination not to know any thing amongst the people over whom we are placed but ~~for~~ "Jesus Christ and him crucified." As Messengers then we are faithfully to exhibit the word of reconciliation. We are to invite sinners to be reconciled to God. We are to proclaim the Gospel to every creature. We are to set forth the record that "God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." In order that this duty may be efficiently discharged, we must have our own minds duly impressed with the saving truths of the Gospel. How can a man entreat sinners to be reconciled to God, who has not experienced this reconciliation in his own soul? How can a man press the acceptance of the record of God concerning Christ upon others, who