

The Church, as an infallible teacher, is discarded, but its powers are transferred to each individual person; each person possesses *infallibility* in himself; each person is himself a church, accordingly as he may please to form his creed; and every possible contradictory opinion is *equally* defensible, as resting upon the interpretation of scripture, adopted by the person who maintains it. This rule, like private inspiration, is shown to be fallacious: since, like the former, it has led, as it is calculated to lead, to *opposite conclusions* on numberless points of faith; and since there is no acknowledged *judge* on earth to *decide*, it necessarily follows that either contradictory doctrines are *favoured* by the sacred volume, and revealed, as *equally true*, by the God from whom that sacred volume came, or else that it was intended by the God of *Peace*, as an *apple of discord*, and *meant* by the God of *Truth* for the propagation of *falsehood*. But as such intentions can never be imputed to the Deity, nor can it be imagined that our Redeemer established a Church to succeed to the Jewish dispensation, and to last *till the end of the world*, so vague and indeterminate in its creed, so uncertain as to its form or even existence, in one place professing, on the authority of God's infallible word, articles and doctrines which, in another place, it anathematizes and disclaims on the same unerring authority,—the author maintains that the scripture *alone* does not furnish this *certain and attainable* Rule adapted to the capacities and situations of mankind at large.

Still he maintains that a *Rule* does exist, and ever has existed since the time of Christ, by which the *faith of his disciples is secured from error*, and his *true religion*, with all its *doctrines and articles of belief* proclaimed to them with equal certainty, by means of his *protecting Spirit*, his promised *Paraclete*, as if He were visibly *seen* by them, and were *heard* by them speaking in his own person, as when he conversed with his disciples upon earth. This rule, he contends, is *the word of God, written and unwritten*, as it is interpreted and explained by his appointed oracle, HIS CHURCH, which he has *authorized and commissioned to teach all nations*, while he has *commanded* all mankind to *hear his Church*. This *rule of faith*, subject to the interpretation of an *infallible expositor*, inspired by *himself*, and guided by his *Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth*, must *necessarily* communicate his revelations, must *infallibly* teach his truth, the *whole* truth, and the truth *alone*. This rule, thus unerringly explained by the *Light of Light*, inevitably implies teachers