

is an act of purest idolatry, to be abhorred of all Christian men. It is equal to the sin of those who, at the instigation and with the approval of the highest authorities in the church of that day, worshipped the Lord that brought them out of the land of Egypt under the form of the golden calf, or those who were guilty of the same sin in Bethel and Dan at the dictation of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin. The worship of the golden calves, as it is called, was not the worship of the golden calves, but the worship of the true God under the elements of these similitudes, and I fail to see the essential difference between worshipping the Lord under a covering of gold and a covering of bread and wine. The one is quite as revolting and quite as sinful as the other, and may be attended with quite as disastrous results. The essence of idolatry is the worship of God under any veil or covering, or with the aid of any material intervening agency. It matters not whether it is a cross or a crucifix, or a human being, or anything else.

(4) It leads to Rome. Not only so, but it is intended that it shall lead to Rome. This is no longer a matter of inference; it is openly avowed by the advanced advocates of ritualism. Witness the action of the E.C.U., and of Lord Halifax; witness the introduction of all the distinctive doctrines and practices of Romanism but one; witness the numbers of the clergy and laity who have actually seceded to the Church of Rome. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

(5) The doctrine on which ritualism is based is not true. To use the Lord's own argument, Handle the elements and see. Christ's body is not an invisible spirit, for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as Christ says His body has. It is written, "Whom the heavens must receive until the times of the restitution of all things." How, then, can that body be continuously in heaven—in heaven until the times of restitution—if it be continuously, or almost continuously, here upon earth? The Church of England does not hold the ubiquitarian doctrine of the Lutheran Church. Her declaration is "that the natural body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ are in heaven and not here." The Church of England distinctly affirms that the body of Christ is *not here*, it being against the truth of Christ's natural body to be at one time in more places than one. Beware, therefore, of the heresy of supposing that it is here when it is not, and of the idolatry of worshipping it as here when it is not. There is no more dangerous sin than that of idolatry in the Christian church. It provokes the