

above what is evidently the highest present rank in the Church. What can we say of him, but that he *lords it over God's heritage?* that he is an intolerable Master, reaping where he has not sowed, and gathering where he has not strewed; and that so certainly as Paul will be confirmed, and the twelve, in their Apostleship over the Gentiles and Jews, so certainly this person will be reduced to the order from which he has exalted himself, and to which he belongs.

2d. From the subject, we learn the great importance of *faith* as a doctrine of the Christian Church.

Our blessed Lord, when he was about to leave the world, reduced the whole gospel to *two points*. "He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved; and he that believeth not, shall be damned." He mentioned *Baptism*, in addition to its literal meaning, to show that it must be a *faith* which *purifies the heart*. These doctrines he commanded his disciples to *preach*. *By these* the world will be either acquitted or condemned. *By these* mankind are absolved or condemned at this time.

Upon the single article of faith, *such a faith as is implied in Baptism*, hangs the fate of the universe. Shall we not consider, then, whether *our sins be absolved*, or whether they be *retained*; retained by *this doctrine*, and consequently retained in heaven?

3d Are there no successors to the Apostles in the Church? And is there no authority in any minister to forgive sins but by *preaching the Gospel?* Hence, let us, my Christian friends, be induced to stand fast in our liberty, and to maintain *that form* of doctrine which was delivered to the saints, and which has been delivered to us.

Let us not be disturbed in mind at *names*, at *unseemly names*. Let us not be discouraged, if we be represented as *schismatics*, or even as *heretics*. Let them call us what they please. We will hold fast to the truths contained in the Gospel, and will have no fear what man can do unto us.