

Competent Witnesses.

They were his immediate personal attendants, and were eye and ear witnesses of the wonderful events of his life, death, resurrection and ascension. John XV. 27. "Ye also shall bear witness, *because* ye have been with me from the beginning." Also Acts I. 21, 22. X. 40, 41. I. John I. 1. II. Peter I. 16.

Endowment from Heaven.

They were supernaturally endowed by the Holy Spirit to teach "the wondrous story of redeeming love" to every nation in its own language. "The multitude were astonished because that every man heard them speak in his own language," Acts II. 6—Acts I. 5. I Cor. XIV. 18.

Divine Commission.

Their Commission from the lips of Christ was "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark XVI, 15, 16. & Mat. XXVIII, 19. Here then is required *first*, an intelligent conviction, and then an intelligent submission to the TRUTH—Christian Faith—then Christian Baptism. *Therefore* ALL Christians shou'd now tell the Truth as taught and confirmed by them.--*Ex:* 1 Cor. XIV, 3, 4, 22, 31. 1st Pet. IV, 11. Rom. XV, 13. Rev. XXII, 17.

How the Commission was fulfilled.

The Apostle Peter when he opened the door of faith to the Jews on the day of Pentecost proclaimed to the murderers of the Prince of Life "Repent and be baptized every one of you into the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of

Incompetent Witnesses.

They are incompetent authoritative witnesses of the truth because they cannot say with the Apostles "that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you," (I. John 1, 3) indeed many of them know little and care less either about the Apostles or their doctrine; except so far as it may appear to subserve their worldly advantage.

No Endowment Whatever.

Although claiming Apostolic Spiritual communication, no one ever heard any one of them speaking or teaching, as the Apostles did, in a language he had never learned. They are therefore great deceivers, or are greatly deceived.

Without divine Commission

The "successors" have no commission to proclaim the glad message more than the humblest private christian. An intelligent day-labourer, being a christian, has a scriptural warrant to preach (see Acts VIII. 1, 4,) which a learned and gorgeous Bishop, not being a christian, has not; for christianity consists, not in profession, form or outward show, but in Divine truth understood, believed and obeyed; it consists in character seen by the eye of God, and approved by Him.

How the Commission is subverted.

Moreover the "successors" invariably *invert* the Apostolic commission as if it read *thus*—"He that is baptized and believeth shall be saved" which is manifestly absurd and untrue.

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