

Again 2 Kings, 9 chap, 12 verse : " And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the Lord their God. And they built them high places in all their cities and they set them up images and groves in every high hill and under every green tree.

" And they burnt incense in all the high places as did the heathen, whom the Lord carried away before them, and wrought wicked things to provoke the Lord to anger.

" For they served idols, whereof the Lord had said into them : Ye shall not do this thing."

Again Isaiah, 9 chap. 16 ver. " For the leaders of this people caused *them* to err. and *they that are* led of them *are* destroyed."

And under the new dispensation are we not also cautioned as to falling from the faith.

St. Paul writes to Timothy. 1 Timo, 4 ch. 1 ver : " Now the spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and the doctrines of devils." Also at 6 verse : " If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shall be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained."

Again 2 Timo, 4 chap., 3 ver : " For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts they shall heap to themselves teachers having itching ears, and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned into fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an Evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

Again 13 chap. Mathew, 26 verse : " For while men slept his enemy come and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also."

It may be asserted that these quotations may apply to us of the Reformed Church. We will see how that is as we proceed.

I shall now as briefly as possible lay before you on what points I conceive the Church of England has fallen from the faith, and I do not think it will be a difficult matter to do so.

Some may say it is presumption on our part to judge the Church, but, my friends, what is the Church that we find paraded before us on all occasions ? Simply a formless vision. There is no such person and no such institution, apart from individual living Christian men and women, and we are as much "the Church" as those who pretend or assume to be the sole Church.

Have we not got fair reasoning faculties as well as they have ; and are we to suppose that the Almighty gave us reason and does not expect us to use it ? Some tell us to go to the Bible. That is just where we want to go and do go ; and we interpret it according to our reason and experience and by God's other revelation outside of it. Human life and human society are of God and rightly studied are an authoritative law, and they all point to the weakness of man and the glory, power and goodness of God.