

The unerring word of God, the Bible, is our rule of faith and practice. "Let God be true, and every man a liar." It is our duty to examine the word of God carefully, that we may regulate our conduct aright in every particular. We shall not be excused in any neglect or error, concerning which Divine authority would set us right, by pleading the example of others. Nor does it necessarily follow, that we must condemn others, who profess to follow the same guide as ourselves, because we may differ in our interpretation of some things contained in Divine revelation.

*On the Orders of Ministers in the Christian Church
and the manner of their Appointment.*

WHEN our blessed Redeemer took leave of "the eleven disciples," he commanded them to teach all nations, and promised to be with them, "always, even to the end of the world¹:" but he gave no instructions respecting the different orders of ministers in his Church, nor the manner of their appointment. This promise, however, implied that there should be a succession of ministers in the Christian Church to the end of the world. And as our Saviour also promised to instruct his apostles by his Holy Spirit, and to guide them into all truth, we must look into the acts of the Apostles, and their Epistles, to discover the will of our Lord on this subject.

The question to be investigated in these observations is this,—What instructions have the apostles given, either by example or precept, respecting the different orders of ministers, in a settled state of the Church, after their departure? I say, in a *settled* state of the Church, after the departure of the

¹ Matt. xxviii. 20.