

So that the statement that the Bible gave us the church is historically incorrect! It confuses witness with $4-3\frac{1}{2}$. I can bear testimony to the effects of a particular message perhaps, but I can't certainly produce in it I can only say it is there and it has certain value. Now take another point, a very simple thing. We must not confuse the written record with the Word of God. Now don't get alarmed. I'm not taking you into modernistic heresy at all. I have nothing whatever to do with it. The Word of God preceded the record of it. Notice what St. Peter says, "Holy men of God ~~spake~~ spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." Now we ask our Roman Catholic friends, "Was the church before the Word of God?" To put it ~~into~~ into very simple language, "What was it that brought the Church into existence?" And the unquestionable answer is that, "The call of God. The call of God was mediated through holy men who ~~spoke~~ spoke as they were moved by God, but the call of God preceded the formation of the Christian Church." Notice the statement in the Acts of the Apostles, "They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, teaching and fellowship and in the breaking of the bread and the prayers." They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine. That was the constituting element in the church, the teaching of the apostles. Where did the apostles get it? From the church? No. From the Lord. The apostles got the message from the Lord. Having got the message from the Lord, they called men to repentance and turning, and through their efforts God founded the Christian Church. Don't you see? The whole theory is wrong.

Now we come to the next point. Why was the message written? The answer undoubtedly is--to give prominence and assurance. The old word is effective. When our Lord said, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden," he was speaking the Word of God. But if the old message was not given ~~prominence~~ in permanent form. I might have some difficulty in ~~xxx~~ satisfying myself as to its value; for 1900 years have elapsed since the Lord spoke the word and we know that all traditions tend to be corrupted. To obviate that danger God inspired