

A Sermon
from 1 Cor: XIII, 13

And now abideth faith,
hope, charity, these three,
but the greatest of these is
charity.

He who has founded & estab-
lished the Church, has also pro-
vided for its continuance and
spiritual sustenance even by
sending the gift of the Holy Ghost,
who is to be our guide teacher and
comforter. We can then there
be wanting grace & strength
from above to build up that
spiritual temple, that holy and

Leaving occasion in which God
will glorify his own name and
promote the happiness holiness
& happiness of man. God Almighty
has decreed to have his habitation
among the children of men and
will never ~~be separated from~~ ^{withhold from}
~~upon~~ his Church such gifts and
blessings which will tend to
accomplish his great & precious
designs. Nevertheless it pleased
God in his wisdom to make certain
distinctions between one age of the
Church and another to suit the means
and instruments for times and
circumstances, to grant certain
favours & to make certain displays ^{of power}
at one time which may be withheld
at another time. Thus the primitive
Church enjoyed certain privileges

which are all enjoyed now,
although be it remembered,
we enjoy certain advantages
now which were all possessed
by the first Christians. It was
expedient for the establishment
and spread of Christianity and
with the wisdom of its Divine
author to prove evildoers
and confirm the truth of the
Christian religion to show forth
its divine character & authority
by mighty operations by signs &
wonders, by peculiar gifts and
supernatural manifestations such
as the gift of prophecy the gift of
speaking in unknown tongues
the gift of healing & working mi-
racles, a deeper insight into Divine

mysteries, and an imparting
of knowledge before heretofore
unknown. These extraordinary
gifts have since long since ceased
but Christianity has not ceased
with them, the essentials of religion
the principal graces of Christianity
remain the same. These supernatural
displays of Divine power have done
that ^{they were intended} for which they had given credibi-
lity and Divine authority to Christ's
religion. They have been bestowed
with leaving Divine origin, they
have given firmness & stability
to the cause of Truth as it is
in Jesus. Have they continued
their force and evidence might
have been lost or at least un-
dervalued. My answer have
been looked upon less as mi-

than but
rather and rather as common
occurrences. As it is, we still
can appeal to them as the proof
and testimonies of truth and
we can better afford to do
without them since we have
now the whole united testimony
of truth set before us even in
the volume of Scripture, in
the writings of the Evangelists &
Apostles, in the Christian testi-
mony of the Church having con-
firmed and extended it ^{preserved, the testimony}
far & wide despite of all ^{the testimony}
opposition & persecution. ^{and actions}
For the Church has proved
that even the gates of hell
can not prevail against it.
Scripture also is now more gene-
rally circulated (and this is so

Small advantage we enjoy
above the primitive Christians
who frequently had to depend
on the oral instruction of
their spiritual guides, or ^{the Minister} ~~from~~
possessing any parts or fragments
of the inspired writings, Con-
siders with us are favoured with
a mass of scriptural ^{scripture} ~~proofs~~
and sound exposition of the
doctrines & tenets of the Bible
from many good & faith-
ful men who in all ages have
more or less adorned the Church.
All these and many other have
and marks of the religion of Christ
its wonderful & efficacious influence
its blessings and the improvements
they confer are so many additional
reasons for Christians of the
present day. We must neither over-

rate the privileges of the primitive age
of the Church nor undervalue the
advantages we now enjoy. Means
& instruments, peculiar distinctions
and privileges or extraordinary
gifts & graces which the Holy Spirit
may from time to time have
vouchsafed, must not be mistaken
for religion itself, must not be
looked upon as ~~essential~~ in themselves
constituting Christianity. If but the
end, the saving of our souls, be
accomplished, if we can but
witness at all times such grace
and divine power bestowed ^{on the Church}, as will
procure true religion, as will bring
forth in us the leading, the fundamen-
mental & essential graces or virtues
of Christianity — if we can but witness
this, and surely the Lord of the Church
will not permit this proof to be wanting
— it must suffice & comfort us

and excite our hearts to grati-
tude. These fundamental graces
or cardinal virtues are
faith hope & charity as stated
in our text. Of these the Apostle
declares that they are abiding, that
they must remain & continue in the
Church, although other gifts and
spiritual manifestations might cease.
These never could cease as long as
Christianity continued in a nation,
they were the characteristic features
of every Christian, the evidence &
function of vital religion. We
now shall proceed to enter into
the meaning of these three Christian
graces or virtues. viz.

I, Faith

II Hope

III Charity and last inquis

Why charity is the greatest among them.

And may that same Holy Spirit
who wrought his mighty changes
in the Church of the first age and still
continues his operations in all
who submit to, and pray for, his
teaching & influence be present
with us now and ever in our
inquiring.

I, We ask what is faith?

In the lowest acceptation of the term
faith is the holding a thing to be true
although we may not have seen it, the
believing of others' statements, by
virtue of their character & veracity,
a relying on the testimony of others,
a confiding in others or receiving
their testimony confirmed by certain
evidence. Thus it is with the message
of the Gospel, with the doctrine & the history
of Christianity, we believe them to be

True because proclaimed & attested
by faithful men, able & competent
to judge of those things having been
eye witnesses, we believe in their
truth because surrounded with
a variety of ~~other~~ proofs & evidences,
credible witnesses such as the Apostles,
were & their companions & immediate
followers and attending circumstances
such as the establishment of the Christian
religion on the doctrine, ^{taught by the} precepts
~~instituted by~~ inculcated by our Lord
and his Apostles, the existence &
stability of the Church with many
other accompanying proofs of the
truth of Christianity are general &
sufficient to produce belief or
faith. The reason & judgement of a
man if fair & unbiassed must be convinced
that this is only the beginning of facts

Traceable
from the present
up to the time
of the Apostles.

on a historical belief as ad-
mission of a truth because we can-
not deny it. The faith urged in
Scripture called saving faith or
lively faith is something more.
It is indeed the substance or
ground, the confidence in, or assurance
of things hoped for or not seen
of such depth & vitality as to
engage not only our understanding
but our heart, a loving hold of
spiritual divine & heavenly
objects & firm & heartfelt reliance
on the truth of God's word, an
embracing of the blessings offered in the
Gospel, a firm dependence on Christ
as the Saviour of sinners, a heartfelt
acceptance of the atonement of God & sal-
vation offered in the Gospel message. We
believe the message to be true, not merely

as a thing which has been proven beyond
doubt but ~~but~~ ⁱⁿ we feel the
deepest interest in it because it con-
cerns our welfare & happiness; we
are eager & anxious concerning the
truth, we believe as something of the greatest
importance, of infinite value. It produces
a grateful & faithful feeling of attach-
ment to Him ^{the} author of our
salvation. He was in possession of true
faith, places a firm, lively heart-felt
confidence in God & all his words
and promises, a true belief in God
the Father the Son & the Holy Ghost, the blessed
Trinity, conjointly exercising power
love mercy & wisdom for our re-
demption, justification & sanctifi-
cation. We believe that we are accepted
with God, that our sins are forgiven, that
we are heirs of grace adopted as
children into the heavenly family, that
faith will prove a life giving principle.

changing our hearts & life renewing the
whole man. It will stand against
temptations ~~from~~ ^{it will overcome all} ~~temptations~~ ^{temptations} ~~trials~~.

II Hope is in the closest communion
with faith; is rational & character-
istic, can scarcely be separated, only
in object aim & design. Faith
has now to do with the past & present
hope with the future, but hope must
follow true faith. Thus when
we believe to be God's children
here & heirs of grace we ~~rest assured~~
that we shall ~~be~~ ^{be} hereafter ~~heirs~~
of glory that we shall be admitted into
the mansions of bliss. We look with con-
fidence & certainty to the fulfilment of all
promises, concerning a future world. But
more than this; in it, ^{hope} fuller ~~rest~~
development & growth becomes a fond
expectation, an anxious desire, an ardent
longing after future bliss & glory, a wish
to be at home, at an eternal home, to take

possession of the heavenly inheritance of to which
by faith we have obtained the title. Like us
a heir of wealth & rank here will look for-
ward rising with confidence but with pleasing
expectation to his future enjoyment so the
Christian will look forward with greater certainty
& confidence & with firmer attraction & antici-
pation to his inheritance above. A heir of this
world is liable to many changes & chances as
regards his title & future possession, his own
life may not be spared, embarrasments & diffi-
culties may blight his prospects of wealth, vi-
citudes may reverse his exalted dignity
and elevation an empty show of little value
not so the heir of Heaven, he has nothing to fear
except it be his own neglect & unfaithfulness.
He is certain that his inheritance is in safe keeping
that nothing can diminish its value & glory
amidst the trials & temptations, afflictions & poi-
sons of this life, the Christian's hope affords
a solemn, substantial comfort enabling him to
persevere to exercise patience to be resigned to
foes, various misfortune & sorrow all these
things will but last for a season whilst his
inheritance with enjoyment will last for ever
Life's voyage is surrounded with many dangers
we sail as it were in a ship tossed ^{& po-} with winds
and waves, but our hope proves a sure anchor

may not confound us
we are now to arrive at last in the haven
of safely quietness & peace. Here we may
submit with patience & resignation with fortitude
and confidence to trials & dangers.

How much is done even in this world & for this
world through hope, what enterprises & ef-
forts are undertaken with a certain object
in view, however doubtful & uncertain
in its attainment, the firm expectation of success
or pleasure, of honor & dignity, what a sti-
mulus it proves to men's exertion; how much
more ought & will the great & glorious
objects of our hope as Christians excite
us to persevere, if indeed we desire an
aim at eternal things more worth having
than all this world can afford. It is hope
that enabled many even to deny themselves
to enjoy the pleasures & enjoyments of this life
nay to lay down their lives to die as martyrs
& witness for the truth. It still offers the
same encouragement to the same power the same per-
severance & faithfulness. Only let our hope be certain
and ardent & we shall not fail to witness faith-
fully we shall not be disappointed.

