

A Sermon
from 1 Cor: XIII, 13

And now abide the 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 withheld from~~ ^{withhold from} bestowing
upon his Church such gifts and
blessings which will tend to
accomplish his great & glorious
designs. Nevertheless it pleases
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 not enjoyed now,
although be it remembered,
we enjoy certain advantages
now which were not possessed
by the first Christians. It was
expedient for the establishment
and spread of Christianity and
worthy the wisdom of its Divine
author to ~~prove~~ evidence
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 ~~to~~ heretofore
unknown. Here extraordinary
gifts have once long since ceased
but Christianity has not ceased
with them, the essentials of religion
the principal graces of Christianity
remain the same. Here supernatural
displays of Divine power had done
that ^{they had intended} ~~for which~~ they had given credi-
bility and Divine authority to Christ;
religion they have been seeking
to its leaving Divine origin, they
had given firmness & stability
to the cause of Truth as it is
in Jesus. Had they continued
their force and evidence might
have been lost or at least de-
valued. They would have
been looked upon as mi-

rather ^{than but} 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 written 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 leaving ^{persons} ^{of the Church} ^{and} ^{of the world}
firmness and extended ^{the} ^{of the} ^{of the}
far & wide despite of all
opposition & persecution.
For the Church has proved
that even the gates of hell
can not prevail against her.
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 ^{the Minister} or ^{from}
possessors of parts & fragments
of the inspired writings, be-
sides with we are favored with
a man of scriptural ^{erudition} knowledge
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
evidences for Christians of the
present day. We must neither

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 living power bestowed ^{on the Church}, as will
procure true religion, as will bring
forth in us the leading, the funda-
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 love in union

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 bless us 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, the
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 these 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 doctrines ^{teachings} & precepts
~~indicated 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 generally
sufficient to produce belief or
faith. The reason & judgement of a
man if fair & unbiassed must be convinced
but this is only the beginning of faith.

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

on a historical belief an 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 mercy of God & sal-
vation offered in the Gospel message. We
believe the message to be true, not merely

as a thing which has been proved beyond
doubt. But ~~but~~ ^{when} 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 thank-
ness to Him ^{the} who is the author of our
salvation. He who is possessed of true
faith, places a firm, lively, heart-felt
confidence in God & all his works
as a person, 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 adoption as
children into the heavenly family. Such
faith will prove a life-giving principle.

Changing our Lust & life renewing the
whole man. It will chase away
disturbances ^{it will overcome all} ~~from~~ ^{and} trials.

17 Hope is in the closest connection with faith; in nature & character they can scarcely be separated, only in object aim & design. Faith has men 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 glory 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 confidence & certainty to the fulfilment of all promises concerning a future world. But more than this; in it, ^{hope} fuller ~~development~~ development & growth becomes a fond expectation, an anxious desire and ardent longing after future bliss & glory, a wish to be at home, at our 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 not only with confidence but with pleasing
expectation to his future enjoyment so the
Christian will look forward with greater ardour
& 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, embarrassments & diffi-
culties may blight his prospects of wealth, cir-
cumstances may reverse his expected dignity
and elevation an empty show of better 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
beyond the trials & temptations, afflictions & pri-
vations of this life, the Christian's hope affords
a solemn, substantial comfort enabling him to
persevere to exasperation 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 yet be confirmed
we are soon to arrive at last in the haven
of safely, quietness & peace. Then we may
submit with patience & resignation unto fortune
and conform to trials & dangers.

How much is clear 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 wealth
or pleasure, of honor & dignity, what a sti-
mulus it proves to men's exertion; how much
more ought & will the great & glorious
object of our hope as Christians excite
us to persevere, if indeed we desire any
civil or temporal things more worth having
than all this world can afford. The hope
has enabled many even to deny themselves
to enjoy the pleasure & enjoy much of this life
not to lay down their lives to die as martyrs
in witness for the truth. It still affords the
same encouragement. The same power the same per-
severance & faithfulness. Only let our hope be certain
and ardent & we shall not fail to continue faith-
ful we shall not be disappointed.

IV, We saw ~~in the~~ what means charity?

The term charity in our text must not be taken in its narrow or limited sense as charity is often applied, as if it merely meant certain feelings and acts of kindness, benevolence or forbearance. The original word more properly signifies love affection. It signifies a heartfelt love ^{affection} directed towards God as the child fondly cleaves to his parent, brotherly love & kindness or tender feelings of attachment as brother & sisters will show to one another. Love to God becomes to his lovers as first love as so much as to give him is our chiefest love to the brethren to our fellow sinners to the heathen because they have been redeemed as we & together with ourselves & belong to the same heavenly family it is the love of God that abounds in our hearts. Love which is the bond of perfection, the fulfilling of the law the moving cause, the main spring of our action, the free voluntary effusion of a benevolent mind seeking from pure disinterested motion not self as largely but lovable. It endures all things believes all things hopes all things is not easily provoked or offended. It ^{beautifies} ~~is~~ all other graces, makes all other gifts pleasing & attractive is not an empty form, like a mere profession, like