

2. Jesus saith unto him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no man cometh to the Father, but by me." John, xiv. 6. Now a way, or road, is as much the foundation of a journey, as a rock is the foundation of a building; therefore as Jesus Christ is the *way*, he is of course the *rock*, on which the Church is to be built. The Psalmist, speaking of his solid footing, in his journey to eternal life, says "He set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings." Psalm, xl. 2. What did he mean by the rock on which his goings were established? Let us have the answer from himself. "The Lord is my defence; and my God is the rock of my refuge." Psalm, xciv. 22. And again: "O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation." xcv. 1. The Son of the living God is the way; that is, he is the foundation on which we travel to our Father's house above; he is the truth, or the light which directs us on our journey; and he is the life; that is, he furnishes the strength, or the living energy, whereby we are enabled to travel on successfully to the end. As well might we say that Peter is the truth and the life, as to say that he is the rock on which to build our hope of eternal happiness.

3. Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit, he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." John, xv. 1, 2. Now a vine is as much the foundation of the branches which grew upon it, as a rock is the foundation of a building; and if our Saviour did not intend to teach us, that Peter is the vine, neither did he mean to be understood that Peter is the rock on which the church is built.

4. In the application of his sermon on the mount, he said, "Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them [not the sayings of Peter.] I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, [however he may glory in being a successor of Peter,] shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand." Matt. vii. 24, &c. Hence it is plain, that if we receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our teacher, and submit

to his governing authority, we build upon a rock; and on this rock he will build his church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Of course, those who leave him, in order to follow another teacher, and to obey a creed established by human authority, are building upon the sand.

5. The Apostle Paul says, "It is written, behold, I lay in Sion a stumbling stone, and rock of offence, and whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed," ix. 33. Does this mean, whosoever believeth on Peter shall not be ashamed?

6. The Apostle Peter says, "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, behold I lay in Sion, a chief corner-stone, elect, precious; and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you, therefore, which believe, he is precious; but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence," &c. As the old builders disallowed the Son of the living God, that they might make Moses the chief corner-stone, how would Peter have been astonished, had he been informed that in after ages the builders would leave the elect and holy one of God, to make Peter himself the stone and the rock on which the church should be built? As both these Apostles quote from Isaiah, let us notice the prophet's words upon this subject: "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation; he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet; and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place." Isa. xxviii. 16, 18.

7. Paul spurns every attempt to elevate Peter or any other Apostle to the Papal chair: "Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul, and I of Apollos, and I of Cephas, and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptised in the name of Paul? Ye are carnal, for who is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?" 1 Cor. i. 12, 13. and iii. 4, 5. In regard to the rock and the foundation, he says the fathers in Israel, "did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of