

**PROTESTANT
PRINCIPLES EXAMINED
BY THE WRITTEN WORD**

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Protestant Principles Examined by the Written Word by Anonymous

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NEW EDITION, REVISED.

"Return back to Judgment."—Dan. xiii. 49.

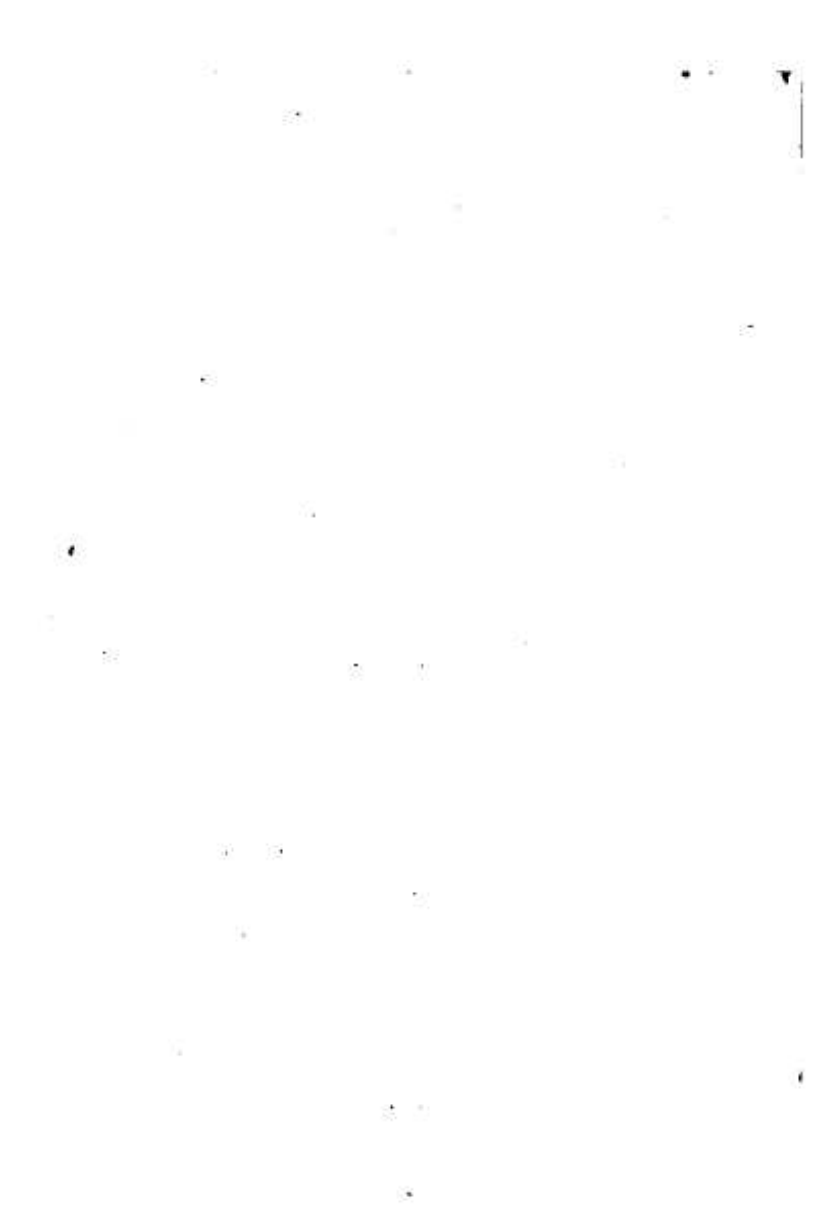
"To the law and to the testimony."—Isa. viii. 20

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
PREFACE	vii
POINT I. Protestants hold, That the Holy Scriptures are clear and easy to be understood in all things necessary to salvation . .	25
POINT II. Protestants maintain, That the doctrine of our Saviour and the Apostles, as to all necessary points, is fully contained in the <i>written word</i>	26
POINT III. Protestants hold, That every private man and woman among the laity has a right to judge of the sense of Scripture, and to interpret it for themselves . .	29
POINT IV. Protestants hold, That in controversies and disputes of religion, we are not bound to submit to the judgment of the Pastors of the Church	32
POINT V. Protestants maintain, That we cannot safely rely upon the judgment of the Church and of General Councils, in controversies of faith and morals	38
POINT VI. Protestants maintain, That the whole Church of Christ not only may err, but also that it hath erred in fact, &c. . .	43
POINT VII. Protestants hold, That the Church of <i>Rome</i> is rightly judged to be the <i>Whore of Babylon</i>	52
POINT VIII. Protestants hold, That the great Antichrist, spoken of in Holy Scripture, is the <i>Pope of Rome</i> , and his predecessors, for the last thousand years, and upwards . .	53

POINT IX. Protestants hold, That no privilege or power was granted by our Saviour to St. <i>Peter</i> , above the rest of the Apostles, &c.	59
POINT X. Protestants hold, That the saints deceased know not what passes here on earth, and that they cannot hear the petitions, &c.	62
POINT XI. Protestants hold, That the holy relics of our Saviour, or the bodies and relics of the saints, ought not to be honoured, &c.	70
POINT XII. Many Protestants hold, That it is not lawful to keep graven images or pictures of Christ, or of the saints, &c.	72
POINT XIII. Many Protestants hold, That it is absolutely unlawful to make and keep in our churches images or pictures of God, &c.	76
POINT XIV. Protestants hold, That there is no purgatory or third place, no middle state of suffering souls in the other world, &c.	77
POINT XV. Protestants hold, That in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, or the Lord's Supper, the elements of the bread and wine, after consecration, <i>remain still in their very natural substances</i> , &c.	81
POINT XVI. Protestants hold, That communion in one kind is only half of the sacrament, not sufficient for salvation	91
POINT XVII. Protestants hold, That the Holy Eucharist was ordained by Christ to be partaken of by us only as a sacrament; nor can it be offered to God on the altar as a propitiatory sacrifice	100

POINT XVIII. Protestants maintain, That neither the Apostles, nor those who succeed to their office, power, and jurisdiction, the bishops and priests of the Church, have any power given from our Saviour Christ to remit sin	107
POINT XIX. Protestants hold, That we are to confess our sins to none but God; and that it is needless to confess to men	110
POINT XX. Protestants hold, That penance entirely consists in a sorrow for our sins, and amendment of life	113
POINT XXI. Protestants hold, That the use of indulgences was not in the days of the Apostles, nor has any foundation in Scripture	115
POINT XXII. Protestants hold, That confirmation is not, properly speaking, any sacrament of the new law, ordained by Christ to give grace	118
POINT XXIII. Protestants hold, That extreme unction is not one of the sacraments of the new law ordained by Christ to give grace	120
POINT XXIV. Protestants hold, That holy orders is not one of the sacraments of the new law, ordained by Christ to confer grace	122
POINT XXV. Protestants hold, That marriage is not one of the sacraments of the new law that confers sanctifying grace	125
POINT XXVI. Protestants maintain, That the honour which is given to angels and saints in the Church of <i>Rome</i> , is no better than idolatry	126

POINT XXVII. Protestants maintain, That to esteem certain places to be <i>holy</i> , and show outward marks of reverence to such places, is one of the superstitions of the Church of <i>Rome</i>	131
POINT XXVIII. Protestants maintain, That water, bread, oils, and other creatures, cannot be, by the blessings, prayers, and consecrations of the Church, sanctified or made more holy than they are by their first creation	132
POINT XXIX. Protestants hold, That religious men and women, who have vowed perpetual continency, may lawfully marry	134
POINT XXX. Protestants maintain, That mortification of the flesh, and an austere way of life, is mere folly and superstition	136
POINT XXXI. Protestants hold, That abstinence and fasting from certain meats in <i>Lent</i> , and upon other fasts commanded by the Church, is folly and superstition	137
POINT XXXII. Protestants hold, That it is an unlawful practice to perform the public service and liturgy of the Church in any but the vulgar tongue	152
POINT XXXIII. Many Protestants hold, That to be joined in communion with the true Church is not necessary to salvation	158
<i>Conclusion</i>	169

PREFACE.

It was a maxim taught by all the ringleaders of the Reformation, and is current among their followers to this very day, *That the written word of God, as it is understood by every person of sound judgment, is the whole rule of faith*: that all things necessary to salvation are therein clearly contained: and that nothing is to be believed with divine faith, but what may be from thence clearly proved: that every one has a right, which no authority on earth can deprive him of, to read and interpret Scripture for himself; that so every Protestant having thus learnt his religion from the Bible, his faith may not be built on the authority of men, but upon the *pure word of God*.

When Catholics objected against these maxims, that there can be no security for private persons, that their interpretation of Scripture will be always true; and yet unless the Scriptures are taken in their true meaning, they can neither be the *whole rule of faith*, or indeed *any rule at all*: that nothing is more apt to lead people into the strongest delusions than inspired writings, when the sense of them is misunderstood, and they are read and expounded without the *key of science*; consequently, that the foregoing maxims of the reform were much more likely to open a door to all kinds of errors and heresies, than to lead any one to the discovery of the true religion. The ringleaders of the reform replied: