

CIRCULAR LETTER.

ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN TRUTH.

THE CIRCULAR LETTER FROM THE N. S. EASTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCHES OF WHICH IT IS COMPOSED.

Dear Brethren,—

The importance of being rooted and grounded in the truth cannot be over estimated. God's word is truth, able to make us wise unto everlasting life. It is an expression of his righteous will and character, an unfolding of our relations and obligations to God and to each other. It gives a view of man's position as he came fresh from his Creator's hand, created in the image of God, pure and spotless, fitted for uninterrupted communion with him. It shows us how man was ruined by the fall, how sin has degraded him, marred the image of God in his soul, robbed him of fellowship with God, and brought him into condemnation. It teaches us that God in his infinite mercy, has provided a remedy for sin, made a sacrifice in the person of his Son which satisfies the demands of justice, and enables God to be just and yet the justifier of those who put their trust in him. Glad news! salvation peace and pardon are freely offered, to the guilty and the erring, without money and without price.

Man's interests for time and eternity require that he should know God and his truth, that he should have a practical, experimental knowledge of the grace of God in Christ. This the believer professes to possess. He should not only know the truth, but be rooted and grounded in it. This phrase is suggestive. It demands much more than a mere theoretical knowledge, or a superficial experience of the truth. It requires a deep, thorough, practical, experimental, God-given knowledge of the truth, which insures a rich experience of the grace of God. Jesus says, "I am *the truth*." Hence to be rooted and grounded in the truth is to be rooted and grounded in Christ.

But what is the meaning of this phrase "rooted and grounded?" It brings before our minds the picture of a tree, strong and vigorous,