

The following, then, aims to be a brief and simple statement, by one who became a Baptist from principle (having been reared in the Church of England), of the doctrines and principles which Baptists hold most sacredly, as the revealed will of God. It is not designedly controversial. Yet it would be impossible to discuss denominational peculiarities without more or less reference to controverted points. It attacks no one, it upbraids no one, it ridicules no one. At the same time, I must claim the privilege of being free and unfettered in discussing principles and doctrines, and in appealing to history for its verdict, for truth is the object to be gained. "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

I address myself especially to thoughtful persons who are willing to give a fair, unprejudiced hearing, who can give due weight to evidence, and see the force of an argument.

It will be observed that I have devoted considerable space to quotations from the writings of eminent men. I have done