

reversed? No, my brethren, no; they are secured to us by the "*Circumcision of Christ*." Is it even so? then where is the sign of the covenant? Where is the "*seal of the righteousness which is by faith*?" We have them in the "*washing of regeneration*."\* We have them in the sacrament of our Baptism into the name of the Lord Jesus! And so Baptism is now to us what Circumcision was to the ancient children of the covenant—it is the means whereby we are admitted into the Church of God: and He, who fulfilled the one, ordained the other in its stead; He who on the eighth day was circumcised because He was "*born under the Law*,"† has taught us by His example, that it is never too soon to enter into covenant with our Father—never too soon to receive the sign of our adoption to be His sons and daughters. Nor was the command to circumcise more strict and imperative, than that by which it was superseded, when the great Lord and Mediator of the renewed covenant sent forth his Apostles to make disciples of all nations, and to "*baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost*,"‡ It was then that all the privileges and blessings annexed to Circumcision were transferred to the sacrament of Baptism thus ordained by Christ himself, as a means whereby we receive the same, and a pledge to assure us thereof.§ And now to neglect this sacred ordinance is to despise the authority of our Lord and Saviour, and to place ourselves in the condition of those excommunicated men who in former days "*broke the covenant, and were cut off from the people of the Lord*."||

Great is the truth and sweet the consolation to be derived from this event of our Saviour's life; and while it teaches the necessity of fulfilling all the righteous ordinances of the Church, assures us that all the mercies of the Gospel are free, and that all its promises are to us and to our children. "*And when the eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, they called his name Jesus*." The Law is fulfilled—Christ was the end of it—still His covenant of grace standeth sure, and the blessings promised to the Church are neither lessened nor limited, now that the admission into it is by the more spiritual sacrament of holy Baptism. Yes, my brethren, the "*promise is to us and to our children*;"¶ and like the children of Abraham, after the example of the HOLY CHILD JESUS, we may enter the covenant as soon as we are born; and this being the ease, is it

\* Titus iii. 5.

† Gal. iv. 4.

‡ Matth. xxviii. 19.

§ Church Catechism.

|| Gen. xvii. 14.

¶ Acts ii. 39.