

Protestants, Lutherans and Calvinists, have no controversy; and the simple reason for this uniformity is, that the statements of the early fathers are so clear, and the light shed upon these statements from the early customs of the church is so conclusive, that no historian who cares for his reputation would dare to deny it, and no historian who is worthy of the name would wish to. There are some historical questions concerning the early church on which the most learned writers disagree . . . but on this one, of the early practice of immersion, the most distinguished antiquarians,—such as Bingham, Agusti, Coleman, Smith; and historians,—such as Mosheim, Giesler, Hase, Neander, Millman, Schaff, and Alzog (Catholic) hold a common language. . . . Any scholar who denies that immersion was the baptism of the Christian church for thirteen centuries, betrays utter ignorance or sectarian blindness.”