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"THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK UNTO YOU THEY ARE SPIRIT
AND LIFE."—*Jesus the Christ.*

A REVIEW OF DR. J. W. DALE'S THEORY.

As most modern defenders of sprinkling are dependent on Dr. Dale for whatever of novelty appears in their defences, it is thought well to devote a few pages to his theory as set forth in his own books—of which there are four large volumes. These volumes contain much that is true, much that is half true, and more that is a perversion of truth. The following statements will give a correct idea of his theory. He claims:

1. That the real baptism is accomplished by the Holy Spirit working upon the soul and purifying it.

2. That the ordinance of baptism, which he calls ritual baptism, consists in the use of water—a drop or an ocean—as a symbol of *purification*, not a symbol of burial.

3. That the commission given by the Saviour, Mark xvi. 16, and Matthew xxviii. 19, has no reference to baptism with water.

4. That the baptism commanded on Pentecost, Acts ii. 38, is the *change* of the soul's condition effected by the Spirit, and that therefore there was no water used in the baptism of the three thousand on that day.

5. That the first use of water, as a baptism, in the Church of Christ, and this only as a symbol of the "real baptism," is found in Acts viii. 38. Several passages from his writings will be quoted, that the reader may see his theory in his own words.

In his *Classic Baptism*, page 31, he makes the following statements, which are nearly in harmony with truth: