

*maud of Christ*, and therefore this rite (infant baptism) is observed by us as an *ancient custom but not as an apostolic tradition.*"

That Prince of Exegetes Dr. H. A. W. Meyer says, "The baptism of the children of christians, of which *no trace* is found in the New Testament, is *not to be held as an apostolic ordinance*, as indeed, it encountered early and long resistance; but it is an *institution of the Church* which gradually arose after the Apostle's times, in connection with the developement of ecclesiastical life, and of doctorinal teaching, not certainly attested before Tertullian (Tertullian died between 220-240) and by him decidedly opposed."

Dr. Augustus Neander, than whom no greater historian has yet written on the early history of Christianity, says in his Church History, "Baptism, at first, was administered only to adults as men were accustomed to conceive *baptism and faith as strictly connected*. There does not appear to be *any reason* for deriving infant baptism from an Apostolical institution; and the recognition of it, which followed somewhat later, as an apostolic tradition, serves to confirm this hypothesis.

Those who are called the Apostolic Fathers, and who wrote in the first century, were five in number. Their names are Barnabas, Hermas, Clemens Romanus, Ignatius, and Polycarp. Of all these only the epistle of Clemens Romanus can be relied on as genuine. He says, "They are *right subjects of baptism*, who have passed through an *examination and instruction*," and "the baptized ought to be *children in malice*, but *not in understanding*; even such children who, as the children of God, have put off the old man with the garment of wickedness, and have put on the new man." If any man can find helpless infants there, he must put them there. In all the writings of the first century, not one word can be found that recognizes the existance of infant baptism in the first hundred years of Christianity. For the learned Martin Luther, who was no great Friend of the Baptists was bound to acknowledge that, "It cannot be proved by the sacred Scripture, that infant baptism was instituted by Christ, or begun *by the first Christians after the Apostle's.*"

Who is the Pedo-baptist that will be so bold as to say he can find a distinct declaration that helpless infants were bap-