

living as *crucified* to the world and alive only to God ; and need this be wondered at when we see Scripture truth so turned upside down as it is in the formularies and prayer books devised by men ?

Scripture says, "Repent and be baptized every one of you"—thus *all* are called to repentance **FIRST**—this is of first importance ; so again in Acts xvii. 30, "But [God] *now* commandeth *all* men everywhere to *repent*" ; the same truth is taught in Luke xxiv. 47. The first thing then to do is to **REPENT**, or change our minds towards God ; baptism is an ordinance resulting from such repentance. But what is taught in the books of man is the very opposite to Scripture ; man says that **INFANTS** (*who cannot repent*) are to be **FIRST** baptized, and then to repent at some future time.

Mark the order in a few other passages of Scripture :

Matt. xxviii. 19. . . . **FIRST** to be taught, **THEN** baptized.

Mark xvi. 16 **FIRST** to believe, **THEN** to be baptized.

John iv. 1. **FIRST** made disciples, **THEN** baptized them.

Acts ii. 41. **FIRST** they received the Word, **THEN** were baptized : not 'they and their children'.

Acts ix. 18. **FIRST** he was converted, **THEN** baptized.

Acts x. 47. **FIRST** they received the Holy Ghost, **THEN** they were baptized.

Similar truth is taught in John iii. 5, "Except a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God". It must be remembered that when these words were spoken, the doctrine of our baptism taught in Romans vi. had not been revealed, for Christ had not then died and risen again, so that these words of our Lord did not and could not in any way refer to it ; but they referred to the baptism of John *then being administered* to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, a baptism of repentance from dead works to serve the living God. The doctrine involved was—**FIRST**, repentance ; **THEN**, baptism and service. The **WATER** here spoken of may also refer to the **WORD** OF GOD, which is fre-