

Is it heresy to receive remission in baptism, if God has appointed it ?

Be it remembered then, that we attach ample efficacy to the blood of Christ. His death and resurrection constitute the immovable basis upon which the whole of our religion is reared. "We are justified by his *blood*," in *obedience*. We are not saved by faith alone, repentance alone, baptism alone, blood alone, hope alone, the *word* alone, the spirit alone, nor by any other thing alone any more than Noah in being saved "by water" was saved "by water" *alone* ! As "man does not live by bread *alone*, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God," so we "purify our souls" not by any one thing alone, but "in obeying the truth : " because in obedience we are the subjects of the concentrated energy of all the gracious means appointed for our salvation.

It being a divinely attested truth, that "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved," that is pardoned, the believer receives baptism as a divine PLEDGE of pardon. He does not think that baptism pardons him, any more than faith or repentance pardons him—nor does he think that baptism, any more than faith and repentance, cleanses him from sin ! He believes that the blood of Christ through faith in repentance and baptism cleanses him from sin ; that God pardons him through the blood of Jesus in obedience, and hence, the act of obedience which is specifically for remission becomes the *pledge* of his pardon. Hence, baptism being for remission is truly the "*answer of a good conscience* !" Has Jesus said that "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved ?" "I have believed," says the obedient person "and been baptized, and therefore as certain as there is veracity in Jesus, am a saved person !" — Saved too through the efficacy of redeeming blood ! He is justified, pardoned, accepted ! His guilt which had lain heavy on his heart, and pierced his soul with a thousand sorrows, has departed. "He has loved me," says the happy convert, "and washed me from my sins in his own blood." Ask him if he now feels guilty ? he will answer in the negative ! Ask him by what means he knows he is justified ? he will tell you "he has the word of God in proof of it !" He believes he has been pardoned, not because he feels happy, but he feels happy because *he believes he has been pardoned* ; and *his evidence of pardon is the word of the Lord*, He trusts not in an inward impulse, in a burning flow of the animal spirits, nor in any of the suggestions of a "heart deceitful above all things and desperately wicked," as an evidence of acceptance ; but to the word of the Lord recorded in the New Testament, confirmed by innumerable miracles, and sealed with the precious blood of our beloved Redeemer. Is not this a sure foundation ? On this then the genuine believer builds for present acceptance and for eternal salvation.

FIFTHLY. *The Holy Spirit destroys the power of sin.* The apostle reminding the Corinthians of their former state of Idolatry and unbelief, contrasted with their present state, and high calling, tells them "such were some of you, but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, (1 Cor vi. 11)—if we would enjoy the present salvation, or pardon