## BAPTISM --- WHAT IS IT ?

whole body was omitted only in the case of the sick, who could not leave their beds. In this case sprinkling was substituted, which was called *clinic baptism*. The Greek Church, as well as the schismatics in the East, retained the custom of immersing the whole body; but the Western Church adopted, in the thirteenth century, the mode of baptism by sprinkling, which has been continued by the Protestants, the Baptists only excepted. The introduction of this mode of baptism was owing to the great inconvenience which arose from the immersion of the whole body in the northern climates of Europe."—Art. Bap. Phil. ed., 1829.

The EDINBURGH ENCLYCLOPEDIA SAYS :

" Baptism, in the apostolic age, was performed by immersion. Many writers of respectability maintain that the Greek verb baptizo, as well as its Hebrew synonym, sometimes denotes sprinkling ; but the various passages to which they appeal will lead every candid mind to a different conclusion. The circumstances recorded concerning the first administration of baptism are likewise incompatible with sprinkling."........... It is impossible to mark the precise period when sprinkling was introduced. It is probable, however, that it was invented in Africa, in the second century, in favor of clinics. But it was so far from being approved of by the Church in general, that the Africans themselves did not count it valid."...... " It was not until 1311 that the Legislature, in a Council held at Ravenna, declared immersion or sprinkling to be indifferent. In this country, however, sprinkling was never practised, in ordinary cases, till after the Reformation; and in England, even in the reign of Edward VI., trine immersion-dipping first the right side, secondly, the left side, and last, the face of the infant-was commonly observed. But during the persecution of Mary, many persons, most of whom were Scotsmen, iled from England to Geneva, and there greedily imbibed the opinions of that Church,"......" and returning to their own country, with Knox at their head, in 1559, established sprinkling in Scotland. From Scotland this practice made its way into England in the

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