

## CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The Ministers and Messengers composing the Western Baptist Association of Nova Scotia, to the Churches which they represent :*

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,—

In presenting you with this our annual epistle, as we earnestly desire your salvation and furtherance in the doctrines of the gospel of Christ, we would urge upon you the importance of an uncompromising adherence to the truths of God as revealed to us in his most holy word. And we would offer a few reasons why we should contend for the truth.

First, it is through its instrumentality that we have been converted to God. It is the good seed which has fallen into our hearts, planted there by the hand of the Eternal Spirit, and under his superintendence has produced in us a deep conviction of sin, discovering to us the purity of God's law and leading us to Jesus Christ for salvation and eternal life. Let us ever keep in mind that it is only through the truth or the pure doctrines of the gospel contained in the Scriptures that any in either christian or heathen lands are ever brought to renounce sin or idolatry and yield up their hearts to God. This is evident from the fact that the Pagan does not forsake his idols until the truths of the gospel reach him, either from the voice of the living messenger, or he is enabled to read in his own tongue of the wonderful love of God. Truth has reached our hearts and made us free, and we have rejoiced in that freedom and shall we not ever love, admire, and defend the instrumentality by which we have been released from spiritual bondage, and brought into union with Jesus Christ, and made the happy partakers of all the benefits resulting from his life of suffering and death of shame.

Another reason why we should contend for the truth is, that by it the Holy Spirit moulds and shapes the Christian character. Christ prayed that the church might be sanctified through the truth. "The entrance of thy word giveth light." The Spirit of God in the sanctification of the believer always operates upon the heart in perfect harmony with the written word, nor will he move us to the doing of any work, to the receiving of any doctrine, or to the performance of any ordinance that is not sanctioned by the Scriptures of truth. However venerable that doctrine may appear from its antiquity, or however popular that ordinance may have become through its long continued use if

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