

water used, any more than does the Lord's Supper upon the quantity of bread eaten.

Because baptizing a person with anything, implies the application of the element to the person rather than the person to the element; the seal to that which is sealed, rather than the reverse.

Because Scripture baptisms and washings of all kinds, as symbols of spiritual cleansing, were usually by sprinkling or pouring.

Because the New Testament use of the word *baptizo*, sometimes translated baptize and sometimes wash, was in no case certainly immersion, while in a number of cases, it was certainly not immersion.

For these and other reasons, we believe that sprinkling or pouring is the Scriptural mode of baptism.

#### X. SOME DIFFICULTIES AS TO THE MODE OF BAPTISM.

Is it not said that Jesus after He was baptized "went up out of (Rev. Ver. from) the water;" and that Philip and the eunuch "went down into the water" and "came up out of the water."

It is; but that does not decide how the baptism was performed after they went into the water. The earliest picture of John baptizing Jesus, is one found on the walls of the catacombs at Rome, and dating back nearly to the times of the Apostles. It represents John and Jesus standing in the water, in the edge of the river, and John dipping the water in a small shell-shaped vessel and pouring it on Christ's head.

In the case of Philip and the eunuch, travelling along a lonely road, coming to a small stream—for the place afforded no large body of water—the most natural method would be that both should step down out of the chariot into the little streamlet running across the way, and that, dipping up the running water with his hand, Philip should sprinkle or pour it upon the head of the eunuch. More especially fitting would be such an act when we remember that the passage of Scripture which the eunuch was reading, and which Philip was explaining, told of the coming Messiah, to "sprinkle many nations."

Thus the words "into the water" and "out of the water" do not imply that the baptism which followed was by one dipping the other under the water.

#### XI. "BURIED BY BAPTISM."

There are two other passages that at first sight present difficulties to some minds. One of these is Rom. 6: 4, "therefore we are buried with him by baptism into his death, that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the Glory of the Father, so we also should walk in newness of life."

In Acts 1: 5, Christ speaks of two kinds of baptism; with water, and with the Holy Spirit; one the outward symbol, the other the renewing of the heart. Now the "buried with Him by baptism" in Romans 6: 4, refers to a baptism which makes men "walk in newness of life" a thing that only Spirit baptism can do.

When the Spirit renews our hearts, unites us by faith to Christ, we share in His death. It is as if we had died when He died, and had made atonement for our own sins. We are, when united to Him, made sharers in His death. We are "*buried with Him.*" There is thus no reference whatever to the burial of the body in water, but to the effect of the Spirit's baptism in making us sharers in Christ's death and burial.

Another passage of the same kind is Col. 2: 12, "Buried with Him in Baptism." But read on—"wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead."

Here again the reference is not to the mode of applying the water of baptism, but to the baptism of the Spirit, uniting us to Christ and making us sharers in His death and resurrection.

The same idea is in the previous verse, which refers to the "*circumcision made without hands.*"

Let us thank God for this precious privilege of the Covenant, Infant Baptism. Let us seek to realize more of the blessings it confers, and the duties it involves; and above all to pray that our children may receive that Baptism which "buries us with Christ into His death," and makes us "walk in newness of life."

A pleasing fact, not generally known is the great decline of the opium traffic, which last year, in India, yielded a revenue of about twelve millions of dollars, as against between forty and fifty millions of a former time.