

symbolizes. The Christian, like his Lord in His public ministry, closes his life as a child of God as he began it,—with a burial and resurrection. That upon which our salvation, and the salvation of the world depends,—burial and resurrection, finds its image and counterpart in the act of Christian baptism. I know that it is regarded as a rite by which we are admitted into the visible church. But how you can give it the prominence you do I cannot see. Where is your scripture for it?

The fact that there is only one passage in Scripture (John iii: 5) that would seem to teach this doctrine hardly warrants you in so concluding, especially as many regard "Born of water" as meaning "Born of the word." Scripture expressions bear this out (See Eph. v: 26, "Washing of water by the word," John xv: 3, "Clean through the word," Psa. 119: 9, etc.) Then, again, there is not a single case in the New Testament where those baptized are represented as being admitted into the visible Kingdom through the act of baptism. Much more might be said, but I must leave it here for the present.

However, if you are right in giving baptism the place in the purpose of God you do, your conclusion concerning the assurance of salvation must of necessity follow. And this is how it would stand; if there is no salvation apart from baptism, there is no salvation for the unimmersed, for there is no Christian baptism apart from immersion. *This last I have proved. And there is no warrant under the sun for changing the form of the ordinance, or modifying it in the least.* Scripture is clear on this. And as to form, scarcely anything can be clearer to the unprejudiced mind. The testimony of the ages, of scholarship, and of scripture is plain, unmistakable and a unit.

This sounds and feels harsh, I know. But what other conclusion can we come to? There is the Divine mould of doctrine plainly laid down. Then a human invention, wholly unauthorized by Revelation, is put in the place of it; and for centuries administered by a part of Christendom for baptism in the name of the Holy Trinity. But that does not make it right; it does not fulfil the command. Doing