

every man to have correct views of his character, all men should search the Scriptures for themselves, that their faith may not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the Testimony of God. To the Jews were committed the Oracles of God ; and in them they thought they had eternal life ; but they were ignorant of the character of the Son of God, the Saviour of the world. They believed in a Messiah, but he was only the creature of their own imagination ; they had a zeal, but it was not according to knowledge. The Jews turned away their ears from hearing the law, and attended to the traditions of their elders. Thus they made void the law of God, and received for doctrine the commandments of men. If men neglect the Scriptures now, if they receive views of Christ different from those given of him there, they are in the same state with the Jews, to whom Christ said, " If ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins."

BIBLICAL CRITICISM

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

No. 2.

In our last, having ascertained the import of the phrase, "*the gift of the Holy Spirit*," to be the Holy Spirit himself given, as foretold by Joel—we proceed to examine some other phrases employed by the Spirit himself in setting forth the effects of his residence in men.

Jesus himself, after his baptism, received the Holy Spirit. In the form of a dove he descended upon him. God gave him this gift. John the Immerser says, " To him God gives not the Spirit by measure." (John iii. 34.) Singular phrase ! " The Spirit by measure ? " What can it mean ? The Prophets had received the spirit by measure. By measure he was given to the Prophets—not by measure to the Son. They spoke not always, and not only, the words of God ; but, as John explains the phrase in the preceding verse, Jesus spoke only and always the words of God. The Spirit of the context is this :—" Jesus whom God had sent speaks the words of God ; for God gives not the Spirit by measure *to him*." "*To him*" is a supplement, but a necessary one ; else God always gives the Spirit without measure.

With respect to this word "*measure*" in reference to the Spirit, it is only found in this passage ; unless we understand Romans xii. 3. and Ephesians iv. 7. as referring to the same subject. " The measure of faith," (Rom. xii. 3.) is explained ver. 6. as denoting gifts spiritual. So in Eph. iv. 7. " To every one