

science, the testimony of which I dare not gainsay or resist save at my peril. I have studied the testimony of God's Word on the subject of baptism, endeavouring to "prove all things, and to hold fast that which is good." The result is, that I have been compelled to give up infant baptism, as unsupported by Scripture, and as opposed to Scripture—a tradition of men, whereby the commandment of God on this subject has been made of none effect. I am constrained to accept that immersion is the only mode, and those who make a credible profession of faith, the only subjects to whom this ordinance should be administered; and consequently that the immersion of a believer on a profession of his faith, is the *only* valid baptism. With these views, I have felt it my duty to conform to the revealed will of the Great Head of the church, and to profess my faith in the Lord's appointed way, "Being buried with Him in baptism," &c. My object in this pamphlet is, "to give a reason of the hope that is in me;" and I pray God that I may be able to do it "with meekness and reverence."

There are two considerations which I believe prevent that earnest attention to this subject which its importance demands, and to which I would call attention at the outset. I do so, because I felt their influence upon my own mind, and am persuaded that, like threshold difficulties, they arrest free enquiry on the part of many whose minds are far from being satisfied, but who are too ready to yield when the possible result is so painful to contemplate. First,—it is often said, and perhaps an unsettled conscience is sometimes quieted with the idea, that baptism is not an ordinance essential to salvation, and that it does not matter much whether we conform to the one view or the other. Now to this I have to reply, that it is a matter of great importance that we should conform in every particular to the revealed will of our heavenly Master. A regard to the supreme authority of Christ, as Lord and Head of his church—a regard to our own comfort and the influence of