

Still, many good brethren urge that there is much danger of these views running into a system of ecclesiastical tyranny.

To this it is replied, with all respect and affection, that if we wait to get a system of polity and government which shall forever be free from danger of abuse, we shall wait until all necessity, for a church is past: and if we could find such a system it would not be the Apostolic system, for that *was* abused, and *did* finally run into tyranny most fearful and oppressive, in the perversions to which wicked men subjected it. Destroy all elements of danger, and you destroy all means of good.

But it is a mistake that any mere machinery of government is the source of tyranny. You may have a perfectly *scriptural* form of government, and have tyranny and oppression. You may have a very defective system of government, and have peace and prosperity. Because, in the latter case the Spirit of Christ is there; in the former, it is absent. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty," is a grand oracle. Back of all tyranny in the church, was the loss of the true spirit, and of reverence for the word of God.—*No form of government will save the church from tyranny.* Our safeguard is in cherishing and cultivating reverence for the Bible, and in seeking supplies of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. As far as any system of government can promote this, that which is most perfectly scriptural is unquestionably the best. Moreover, we need to be saved from *anarchy* quite as much as from *tyranny*. And it is worth while to consider which is the more threatening evil, for the present and the future.

In the spirit of honest inquiry, these thoughts are respectfully submitted to the brethren.

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BAPTISTS AND BAPTISM.

[If the following be correct, every man who loves Christ ought to know it. Let the intelligent reader ponder it. We copy from the "Advocate," of Nashville, Tennessee.—D. O.]

We see some difficulty in discussions of the subject of remission with the Baptists. Indeed, the Baptists and Disciples agree in so many points connected with the salvation of the soul, that we doubt if there