

HEBREWS, 4. 12. "For the Word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart."—*Revised Version*.

This verse is best understood by that one in Matthew, 10. 34. where Christ says, "Think not that I came to send peace on the earth; I came not to send peace but a sword." So that our text refers to the Incarnate Word, as well as to the Inspired Word which he has left on record; "The words that I have spoken unto you are *spirit* and are *life*."

The greatest dividing power in this world is *the word*. I am unwilling to believe that there are any persons, who knowingly misrepresent our belief and practice; and yet there are so many who do not understand either, that if they attempt to state them to others, they must misrepresent us. Many people, who do not get clear, straight-forward views on these subjects, and therefore fail to have intelligent reasons for their position, are ready to exclaim, "Oh, but you Baptists are close-unionists." To which charge I answer, "We are no more close-unionists than any other denomination of evangelical christians."

According to the articles of faith of the Baptists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Methodists, and Episcopalians, no person is permitted to partake of the Lord's Supper in any of their churches, unless he be *first baptized*. I challenge any man to prove that I am not stating the truth. Who will dare to say that the Baptists are different from the other four bodies of christians on the subject of communion, after reading the following utterances of some of the leading divines, who voice the articles of their denominational creeds?

Rev. Dr. Wall, an eminent Episcopalian writer says, (*History of Infant Baptism*, part II., chap. 9), "No church ever gave the communion to any persons *before* they were *baptized*. Among all the absurdities that ever were held, none ever maintained that any person should partake of the communion *before* he was *baptized*."

Rev. Dr. Hopkins, a Congregationalist, and of great authority in his denomination says, "No one is to be considered, and treated as a member of the church of Christ,

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