

(4) Infants are saved by God's grace through the mediation of Christ, and should receive the sign of that salvation.

(5) Households were baptized by the apostles. For beyond question among the Jews, children, if there were any in the family, were included in the household, and were circumcised along with their fathers (Gen. xvii. 24-27; xxi. 4; Josh. v. 2, 8); also, as the Christian church is more extended than was the Jewish, including women expressly and Gentiles, so surely it is not made narrower by excluding children. (Acts xvi. 15; xxxiii. chap.; x. 48; 1 Cor. i. 16; Luke xix. 9.)

20. *Is there any passage of Scripture in which it is expressly stated that Infants were Baptized?*

Ans. No; not as far as Christian baptism is concerned. But in 1 Corinthians x. 2, it is said of the Israelites that when they passed through the Red Sea they were "All baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea." Surely this baptism included the infants. Further, there is no mention made in the Acts of a child of Christian parents, brought up in the nurture of the Lord, being baptized when grown up on his own profession; all the cases recorded were of Jews, or proselytes, or heathen with their households. And yet, before the book of Acts was written, thousands of Christian children must have grown to full membership in the churches of Christ.

21. *But infants cannot understand what is done to them, nor profess faith and repentance, of what use then can baptism be in their case?*

Ans. The same objection lies against God's ordinance of circumcision which was observed when the child was eight days old. Nevertheless every Israelitish child had by birth a right to all the privileges of the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants, and was under obligation to perform every duty. "The promise was to them" as to their fathers. (Acts ii. 39.) In like manner children under the new covenant, being born within the church of God, have a right to all its privileges; also Christian parents come under solemn obligation to bring up their children as children of God, and in the baptism of their