

prospects of still greater triumphs of the truth, we will but say, to God be *all* the praise.

As regards their relations with other Christian communities, and with their fellow men in general, Baptists are not open to the charge sometimes brought against them—of illiberality or exclusiveness. They are always ready to co-operate with their fellow Christians of other persuasions, in religious effort, in benevolent institutions, in the promotion of every enterprise for the mental, moral, and spiritual welfare of the world, in every good cause, *where no compromise of principle is involved*. They entertain sincere respect and love for the people of God of every name, and are ready to manifest this Christian friendship as fully and unmistakably as any, but *they will not sacrifice God's truth*.

Baptists are not, *according to the historical signification of the term*, Protestants. They do *in reality* protest, as their predecessors have always done, against *all* that is unscriptural in doctrine or practice, *wherever* it exists; but Protestantism, so-called, is only as old as A. D. 1529, when the celebrated Protest of certain German states and princes was made at the Diet of Spires. We say to Protestants, God speed you, and help you to do a good work! You have reason to protest against the errors of that body from which you came out, only you do not carry your protest far enough. We never were enclosed within her pale, but we rejoice in the work you are doing, and would rejoice more fully if it were more *thorough*. Oh that the Reformers had accomplished a complete Reformation! Oh that they had left certain things behind them when they came out! How much more glorious, more powerful, and more triumphant would the Reformation have been! But it was scarcely to be expected that they could at once shake off *all* the errors among which they had been reared. It was a great spiritual resurrection, and in coming forth from the tomb some of the grave clothes clung to them. How desirable that their descendants should complete the work which they began, and now render the Reformation perfect.

The word of our God shall stand forever. It may be opposed and its holy light obscured for a time, but in the end it must be acknowledged. The Bible is the only infallible guide amid the varying currents of human opinion. But if it is to be our guide, it must be *fully accepted*, and *implicitly obeyed*. Neither long-standing custom, nor natural inclination, nor self-interest, nor the example of numbers, nor any other consideration should