

the members of His church, as they *partake of the grace* of the covenant." And note, Mr. Watson assumes this to be meant of *children*, as such; all children; not "believers' children" merely, as some erringly talk—No, thank God,

"For all, for all our Jesus died."

The next enquiry is, *Are Children members of the Visible Church?* I answer, no—*emphatically*, no. I accept the distinction as assumed in Dr. R.'s Pamphlet. There is doubtless existent, what is intended by the visible, and the invisible, or, more properly speaking, the *spiritual* church. The scriptures speak of visible and organized bodies, as the "Seven Churches of Asia," and many other distinct organizations, as so many portions of the visible church. In like manner the whole of these portions, taken together, constitute the *universal* church. This is the visible church of God upon earth; but it is not, in the *highest* sense, the Church of God. In the sight of God, doubtless, many of its members possess but a nominal connexion with the Mystic Body of Christ. In its first and strictest sense, the Church of Christ is the whole company of the "saved," of the justified, of such as are really in spiritual union with the Saviour. The "Body of Christ," to which the title *Church* pre-eminently belongs, includes only an accepted and approved and holy membership. This is eminently the "Body," the "House," and the "Spouse" of Christ; and to it belongs the unity, the oneness, the purity, the safety, the permanence, and the final glorious triumph, so often and variously the glowing theme of the Holy Scriptures. Now, of this church children *are* members; and *all* children are members of it by virtue of their interest in the Covenant of Universal Redemption; as they are in a state of gracious acceptance and salvation; and of consequence, "heirs of eternal life." In *no other* than this highest sense are infants members of the church. Of no other church relationship do they stand in need, as children. Of no other church relationship are they capable. Mystify we may, and write and talk confusedly we may, as hundreds do in reference to this matter; but, affirm it who may, the thing is simply impossible that *infants can* be members of the church, in any other sense.

A Pædo-Baptist says, "When we speak of infants belonging to the church, we do not mean that they belong to the Church in A, or the church in B; not to this branch, or to that branch of the church; but to the Spiritual Church of God. To this church infants *do* belong, and should be acknowledged by all the disciples as they were by the Lord, as, 'Of the Kingdom of Heaven.' They are not responsible as active members of Christ's Church,