

Are we not then opposing one of the strongest and most dangerous tendencies of this age of liberty run mad? Are we not thus silently doing a great work for the church and the world?

We are contending almost alone for the doctrine that God's favor and covenant blessings are not conditioned upon any natural descent, upon any mechanical act,—upon anything done for us or to us in our infancy, but only upon a personal and conscious act of faith in Christ. In the warfare against ritualism which is putting form and ordinance in place of the Saviour, and so deluding myriads with a false hope to the destruction of their souls, we must lead the van of the host which we are bringing toward the place where we have stood so long alone,—toward I say, for those who have been raised from the death of ritualism are still, many of them, bound hand and foot in its grave clothes. God has committed to us, then, brethren, the grave responsibility of tearing off the last wrappings of this curse, as it exists in the very nature of infant baptism, as well as to release the myriads who are still unawakened from its deadly chill and stupor. And who can estimate what is depending upon our firm adherence to this principle of our denominational life? Finally we are contending against all others for a church of regenerate men and women, who shall reflect the life of Christ and be as a city set upon a hill, separate, conspicuous, shining. It has been the emergence of this idea of a church from the corruption and darkness of the past which has made the difference between this and the dark ages. As we alone have held this idea in the past, and as the very nature of pedobaptism is the negative of this, on us devolves the mighty responsibility of keeping the truth about the constitution of the church before men, and of pressing it, until the body of Christ shall no longer receive into itself the children of the wicked one, or allow them to remain there, but shall purge itself of its unhallowed elements, and become what God intends it to be,—the light and hope of a lost world lying far