

*Romans i.* Are the so-called Christian Nations of to-day any better?—Read the description written of our *leavened christianity* in these last times; in 2 *Timothy iii.*, and the picture is equally awful, while the guilt is infinitely greater, inasmuch as we have had the light of the Gospel among us, which the Pagans had not. And this very light has been used to set up that special and distinguishing sign whereby professing Christianity differs from Paganism, that is, 'THE FORM OF GODLINESS WITHOUT THE POWER'. The great sham religiousness of the present day—God and Mammon.

Again, some argue, that as Jewish infants were circumcised, therefore Gentile infants should be baptized: but such an argument only shows an ignorance of the truth in those who advance it.

What is there in Circumcision, in any way parallel to Baptism? It is the very opposite in its teaching. Circumcision, or the knife to the flesh, is a symbol of what the Law did, a pruning of the flesh, making *IT* better, or a bad man into a better moral man, etc.; it never could make a radically bad, corrupt nature into a good, or holy nature, the very righteousness of the Law only condemned the evil fleshly nature of man, and hence it is called "the ministration of death". It was also a seal or sign in *the flesh* given by God, of what He would accept as righteousness imputed through faith in Him that was to come, by and through those symbolical ordinances, that illustrated so richly the atonement by blood given to the Jews, a people called out from the nations of the earth.

What a vast contrast is Baptism the symbol of now. It kills the man that the Law tried to improve, it buries him also, and further, what circumcision never symbolized—it raises up in resurrection life, a *new man*, "after God created in righteousness and true holiness," and "SEALED by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption" (*Ephesians iv. 24, 30*).