

in a language which we understand before we can believe it. If it come to us in words we do not understand we must find out, from competent authority, the meaning of those words, or consult the standard dictionaries of the language. In the present dispensation the will of God was reported to the world in the Greek language. Had it remained in Greek a mere English scholar could not understand it; to him it would be a dead letter. A great part of the scriptures have been given to the English in their own vernacular, but some very important parts have been withheld. In order to ascertain the meaning of Greek words that have been transferred we go, not to an English, but a Greek Dictionary. Our Lord commanded his apostles to perform a certain *action*. Had the words *he employed* been translated into English the controversy would be at an end; but the word is left in Greek. When Greek Dictionaries are examined, they all, with one consent, say it means immerse. Some give it secondary meanings, but all standard Lexicons give it this meaning. My faith in the meaning of the word rests on the united testimony of those who are competent to give the meaning. There are many valid reasons for believing that these men spoke the truth which I will now state:—

1st, Classic History confirms its meaning.

2nd, Those who still speak the Greek language practice immersion for baptism and will not fellowship what they call “sprinkled christians.”

3rd, The testimony of a host of pedobaptists, of acknowledged learning and piety, among whom are Luther, Calvin, Wesley, George Campbell, Doddridge and Chalmers; they say that immersion is the meaning of the word, and also the apostolic practice, their own practice notwithstanding.

A. But when they practised differently they showed dishonesty.

B. Not however in their testimony. Dishonest men hide their faults, honest men appear as they are. These men did not make choice of sprinkling; they were brought up to that practice, and although they had no authority from God’s word for it, they seemed to quiet their conscience by calling it a non-essential.

4th, Many of the most learned and pious pedobaptists have renounced sprinkling altogether and have been solemnly immersed in the name of the Lord. These are astonished that they had not sooner seen their error, and are the most strenuous advocates for immersion.

5th, The signification of the ordinance—it points to the death, burial