

even deaths have been known to result from plunging persons in cold water. Now we do not say that any *duty* is to be avoided, because of either difficulties or dangers, but no good proof can be given that *this is a duty*, and hence we maintain that to enforce it as such is to attempt to burden us with a yoke which cannot be shown to be of any advantage to ourselves, the church, or the world. Pouring or sprinkling shuns all these difficulties, is more expressive, more solemn, and more easy of application to all.

We have no hesitation then in forming the conclusion, in which we think you will heartily join, that *immersion is not the mode of baptism we are required to adopt.*

I close by observing ;

I. It plainly appears from what has been said, that it can only be an *OPINION* with the Baptists, that *Immersion* is the *ONLY SCRIPTURE MODE* of Baptism. This is asserted as though it were an *ascertained certainty*, a *fixed fact*.

From this they *INFER*,

I. That all other denominations are unbaptized, because unimmersed, and that they are therefore in a state of disobedience against God.

II. That other denominations cannot be recognized and treated by them as members of the church of Christ.

III. That other denominations are guilty of mis-translating the word of God, or at least of covering up its sense on the subject of baptism.

Now I would earnestly and affectionately ask, are they warranted in founding such sweeping and tremendous conclusions on a *mere matter of opinion*, respecting the particular mode of observing an outward ordinance ?

“ I speak unto wise men, judge ye what I say.”

2. I cannot conclude without one word on the necessity of having the *heart* right in the sight of God. It is not enough for us to be right in externals: our righteousness must exceed that of the Scribes and Pharisees. “The kingdom of God is not meats and drinks;” it does not consist in outward forms, but in “righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” *

* This discourse concludes abruptly, for want of space, but it was thought best to give the argument entire, and omit nearly all the closing remarks.