

## Circular Letter.

FROM THE WESTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, TO THE CHURCHES  
OF WHICH IT IS COMPOSED.

*Dear Brethren,—*

We beg leave in this our annual epistle to direct your attention to the subject of Communion. We have hitherto held up the Bible as the rule of our faith and practice; we must never lay it down. For all we teach and practice we must have God's word for our authority; short of that we must not stop; beyond it we dare not go. Its doctrines we should declare fearlessly; and its laws we must observe promptly. We should never allow ourselves to be misled by undue zeal, false charity, or the spurious notion that we can promote the cause of God in the world, by compromising the holy principles which we profess. It would be a shame for Baptists to say to those who differ from them, we believe and practice so, simply because the Church to which we belong does so. This would be placing us on a level with the greatest errorists in the world, for any and all of them can say as much, and give as good a reason for their views and practices as that. Every baptist should be prepared to defend his principles by appealing to the Bible, and say to the world, here is my authority.

Let no one be satisfied to stop short of this, if he would be an honour to the religion he professes, and a blessing to the Church of which he is a member. To God's truth and the salvation of the world, let us be faithful unto death,