

been done. The millions of the Roman, Greek, Lutheran, and Episcopal churches are still, for the most part, trusting to their baptism and church connection for salvation, while they still cling to their union with the state and their intolerance. All these myriads are dependent chiefly upon Baptists and their principles to free them from deadly error.

Thus we find how egregiously many Pedobaptists friends expose their ignorance when they throw at Baptists the charge that they must believe immersion saves, since they will not admit anything else to be baptism, as though our whole history were not a continual struggle against this doctrine as it has been held by Pedobaptists generally, and as if Baptists must believe baptism saving because they will not admit anything to be baptism but what Christ has enjoined. Do these friends think we can tamper with every thing which God has commanded, when we do not thereby endanger our souls? Do they admit no obligation in a command as the expression of the divine wish, or is there no obligation but in a selfish desire to profit ourselves? Will they never see that the source of all the obligation of the command is in its being from God, and not at all in its benefit to us, and that hence all God's commands have the same obligation?

Thus also it may be seen that we are not contending for mere forms and names, as some superficial people seem to suppose. We are contending for the principle that men are to take no liberty with anything that God has instituted or taught, but that we must abide by his instructions in all things with equal strictness, believing that in what is least as well as in what is greatest God has a purpose which can only be served by exact compliance. And who can tell what is depending upon our stand on this ground, as we set our faces against that unhallowed daring, which, beginning with the assumption of liberty to mutilate what is not necessary to salvation, is threatening to paralyze regard and respect for all God's teachings and demands.