



CHAPTER VI.

PATRISTIC TESTIMONY.

DR. DODDRIDGE in his Lectures on Ethics and Divinity, observes: "Some have apprehended that they have been able to trace such intimations, at least, of infant baptism in the earliest ages of the church, as may, to a high degree of probability, prove it an apostolic and consequently a Divine institution."

Our author makes himself one of the number by giving on *one page* of his *little* book (61) what he calls a "*resume* of the principal patristic evidence," which he also says "is corroborated by the testimony of the Catacombs." In this "*resume*" he boldly asserts that Justin Martyr, Irenæus and Origen teach the doctrine of infant baptism. Suppose it were true that these men who flourished from the middle of the *second* to the middle of the *third* century after Christ, would teach a doctrine that is not found in the Word of God, are we as ministers and followers of the Lord Jesus to cast away His Word, and follow the teachings of uninspired men, be they ever so numerous or learned?

This would indeed be "teaching for doctrine the commandments of men,"—conduct on which our Lord is not silent. See Mark vii: 7-9.

But we are compelled again to contradict our author in