

(3) Neither our Lord nor His apostles could be baptized into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, as is required in Christian baptism ; for when John was baptizing, Christ had not died for sins nor risen again, nor had the Holy Ghost been given. (4). Those who had been " baptized into John's baptism " had afterwards to be baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus " (Acts xix. 3-5). (5) There was no Christian Church in the time of John, nor until the day of Pentecost, of which Jesus or the apostles could be members. Clearly, therefore, the baptism of Jesus was not Christian baptism, had not the same meaning or significance, did not admit into the visible Church of Christ, and ought not to be held forth as an " example " which we are commanded to follow.

16. *Were there any ordinances in the Jewish church which set forth and signified cleansing from sin ; that is, forgiveness and regeneration ?*

*Ans.* Yes. Circumcision, or the putting off of the body of the flesh (Col. ii. 11 ; Acts vii. 51) ; sacrifices for sin (Lev. viii. 14 ; xvi. 3, 15, 21, 22) ; divers washings and sprinklings (Ps. li. 7-11)—all which were commanded by the law as symbolic acts of forgiveness and spiritual purification.

17. *Is baptism an act of obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ ?*

*Ans.* (1) Yes ; so far as the minister of Christ in administering the outward rite obeys His command, given in Matt. xxviii. 19, to " make disciples baptizing them," etc. (2) No ; so far as the person receiving baptism is concerned, for he is wholly passive in the matter, does nothing but receives for himself or child the outward sign or seal of what God has done for him in Christ Jesus, and has promised to do for all who are willing to receive His grace. Without question many receive the outward rite who do not perform the act of obedience implied in faith and repentance ; nevertheless their baptism is valid, being the act of Christ's servant in His name and by His authority.

18. *If, then, baptism does not save, nor in itself convey grace, nor put a man into the kingdom of God, or into the*