

in the Bible, for which he could show no reason. I believe he would conclude that Jesus was sprinkled.

*I.* This is strange! I would like to hear your reasons for such a declaration.

*S.* They are taken from the Bible. Why was Jesus baptized?

*I.* To set us an example.

*S.* He did not say so; but, Thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Matt. iii. 15. What does this mean?

*I.* To do whatever the law required!

*S.* What law required Jesus to be baptized? Not the moral law; for it says not a word about it. Not John's law; for John forbade him,—Matt. iii. 14—which he would not have done, if his baptism unto repentance, and the remission of sins, had required it. We find the term, the law, used in the Bible only in reference to the moral and the Levitical law. Jesus was about to commence his great work of atonement. This he was to do in the character of a priest. Heb. v. &c. The law required that every priest should be washed, purified with water. Jesus must fulfil this law. None was so proper to baptize him as John—his forerunner—a prophet—the greatest among those born of woman; of the tribe of Levi, himself, according to the law, a Priest. In Exodus xxix. 4, we have the general direction about this washing: Thou shalt wash their bodies. But it is not said what part of the body shall be washed: nor in what way it shall be done. Exodus xxx. 19, 20. A laver is provided, too small to immerse the whole body, and in it the hands and the feet were to be washed. The mode of the washing is not yet mentioned. In Numbers viii. 7, the mode is fixed: Thou shalt sprinkle water of purification upon them. The Bible speaks of no other law, that required Jesus to be baptized. If he were fulfilling this law—and he came to fulfil, not to destroy it—he certainly was not immersed, but sprinkled. Jesus has commanded us to search, not the dictionaries, nor human opinions, but the scriptures; for they testify of him. I have done so; and the only testimony they give, is that he was sprinkled. If I am wrong, it is because the Bible gives me no other answer for the reason of my hope. The law required Jesus to be sprinkled—and it accords with the prophecies, and God's mode of baptism, both with the Spirit and with water.

*I.* Really, you have made it out better than I expected. But do you not suppose that the apostles baptized as Jesus was baptized? If so, he certainly was immersed.

*S.* I suppose they did. But our suppositions have nothing to do with the question.

*I.* As Philip immersed the eunuch, and as the apostles baptized as Jesus was baptized, certainly he was immersed.