

their own consciences, and secondly, to do away prejudices from those without. If you have any such thing in your Church as an Evangelist or Pastor, who could or would come among us and perform this labor of love, in so doing you would confer on us a great favor, and we would bear the expense.

\* \* \* \* \*

J. S. received the first rudiments of a church of Christ in Paisley, Scotland. He had been twenty years a member, five of which he was Deacon, and hence he thought might be inferred his right to administer the ordinance of Baptism. We believe that all who have liberty from the church to preach the gospel, have also a right to baptize those who confess Christ's name and obedience to his commandments : \* \* \* \* \* We beg your answer, immediately in the name of the Church,

JOHN STEPHENSON,  
DAVID ORR.  
ANDREW NISBET. :

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### ANSWER.

HALIFAX, October 26, 1836.

Dear Brethren,

I received your Letter,—which seems to seek christian counsel in respect to the Church with whom you worship, setting apart some of the brethren to the Elders' office. It is a responsible thing to give directions respecting the institutions of the Church of Christ, beyond what his word *plainly* reveals. "Secret things belong unto the Lord our God, but those which are revealed belong unto us, and to our children forever, *that we may do* all the words of this law."—Deut. xxix. 29. The difficulty of finding out from the New Testament an answer to our inquiries, on any particular subject, often arises from our seeking in it, for things, or for a way of doing things, about which it has never made any revelation. Churches are to obey and to conform to, the laws and ordinances which Christ has ordained and by apostolic example or precept pointed out.—They are not law makers, and cannot expect to find from the New Testament any directions how to fulfil the traditions of men.

I cannot discover that the Bible reveals any thing equivale.<sup>t</sup> to what many mean by the terms "constituting a church with, or without a covenant," "being put in church order," &c &c.—these with different persons imply the most different ideas.—I learn from that revelation of the Spirit, which holy men were moved by Him to make known to man, that God hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, and his Son, by his Apostles—these speaking as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, and therefore infallibly knowing the mind of Christ, could alone direct churches *how* to act, agreeably to the divine will; or could specially instruct and appoint others,