

SION" (*Hebrews ix. 22*), and again, 'the BLOOD cleanses from ALL sin;' the Water, therefore, has no part whatever in cleansing from sin, but is merely the outward visible sign or symbol of what God sees as done spiritually in every true believer, so to make the water in any way a *necessary to salvation*, is only to detract from the efficacy of the blood, and so lowering the preciousness of the atonement, which is the constant aim of the devil.

It is commonly affirmed that Infants were baptized in the days of the Apostles because *households* were baptized, inferring from this fact that children that might be in them were included: but the word of Scripture is careful to set aside any such conclusion. There are *four* households—

1st, in *Acts xvi.*—The Philippian Jailer, where we are told in verse 34, that he '*rejoiced, believing in God with all his house*'.

2nd, in *Acts xviii. 8.*—That of Crispus, where we are again told that *all the household believed*.

3rd, in *1 Corinthians xvi. 15.*—That of Stephanas, whose household Paul baptized in *1 Corinthians i. 16*, they *ordained themselves* to the ministry of the saints.

Did Infants *Believe*? Did Infants *Rejoice*? Did Infants *Ordain themselves*? Clearly none were in these houses.

4th, in *Acts xvi. 15.*—That of Lydia, who was then selling her goods in Philippi, a city 800 miles away from her home at Thyatira: if she had children, it is very improbable that she would take them with her so far from her home, travelling about with her while selling her goods.

This argument for trying to prove Infant baptism is a sad failure. The argument that the Jews baptized their children, has no weight at all, for if they did so it was of their own vain tradition, and not given them from God, so of no authority whatever.

Another argument for infant baptism has been drawn from early history, which relates the fact that such was practised within a hundred years after the death of the Apostles: supposing this to be true, it carries with it no authority, for the early