

enough to prove that any person, in the same circumstances as they were, must believe in order to be baptized. But mark what these circumstances were: Every one of them, up to the period of his baptism, was either a Jew or a Jewish proselyte, a Samaritan or a heathen; each one of them was an adult coming into the Christian church from the world beyond it; each one of them was the case of a person whose parents had not been Christians; and none of them had ever received Christian baptism before.

4. Immersionists differ from others in affirming that because an adult needs faith before baptism, therefore an infant needs faith before baptism. His logic does not carry conviction with it when he affirms, because a profession of faith was needed from Jews, Samaritans, and pagans, on their entrance into the church, therefore the infants of those in church membership already need to make a profession of faith, or be excluded from baptism for want of it. If faith before baptism is required from adults, in certain circumstances, it does not follow from that fact, that faith before baptism is required from infants in *totally different circumstances*. A person who would settle in another country and under another flag than those of his birth, is required to secure articles of naturalization before he can claim the rights of a citizen or a subject in the country and under the flag of his adoption; but he who is born within the realm may claim the rights of a citizen or of a subject, as his by birth. The circumstances peculiar to the alien and to the home-born are materially different, and have an important bearing on the question of citizenship. For the alien there must have been an initiatory rite—the profession of faith or fidelity (sometimes called an “oath of allegiance”) to the nationality into which he would enter. From those born in the realm no such pledge is required; the rights of citizenship are theirs by birth; they are free-born. Infants belong to the kingdom. No such profession is required of them as of the alien, to en-