

**BAPTISM DISCOVERED
PLAINLY &
FAITHFULLY, ACCORDING
TO THE WORD OF GOD**

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Baptism discovered plainly & faithfully, according to the Word of God by John Norcott

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JOHN NORCOTT

**BAPTISM DISCOVERED
PLAINLY &
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BAPTISM

Discovered Plainly & Faithfully,

According to the

WORD of GOD,

WHEREIN

Is set forth the Glorious Pattern of our Blessed Saviour JESUS CHRIST, the Pattern of all Believers in his Subjection to Baptism. Together with the Example of Thousands who were Baptized after they Believed.

By *JOHN NORCOTT.*

A New Edition.

Corrected and Somewhat Altered

BY

CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON.

Jer. 6. 16. *Ask for the Old Paths, where is the Good Way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your Souls.*
Isa. 30. 21. *This is the Way, walk ye in it.*
1 Cor. 11. 1. *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*
Matt. 3. 16. *And Jesus, when he was Baptized (or Immersed), went up straightway out of the Water.*
Luke 7. 30. *But the Pharisees and Lawyers rejected the Counsel of God against themselves, being not Baptized (or Immersed) of him.*

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PREFACE.

COURTEOUS READER,

The first and chief point touching our salvation is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In our Lord's commission to his disciples he said, "*He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved*" (Mark xvi. 16), and everywhere throughout Holy Scripture believing on the Lord Jesus Christ is placed in the front rank in reference to eternal salvation. "*He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God*" (John iii. 18). Faith is believing the testimony of God concerning his Son, and trusting in the Lord Jesus as he is set forth in the Scriptures. If there be a failure on this point, the whole business falls to the ground, for it is written, "*He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him*" (John iii. 36). Hence, before you read this book upon Believers' Baptism, I would entreat you to enquire whether you are a believer in Jesus or not; for, if not, baptism after the most Scriptural mode would rather increase your condemnation than promote your salvation. Whether you are baptized as a babe or as an adult, neither can avail you anything unless you truly believe.

Whether you have been sprinkled or immersed will be a small matter to you if you be found an unbeliever at the last, for you will perish for ever. "*Without faith it is impossible to please God*" (Heb. xi. 6), even though you practise his own ordinances.

If you can answer the question concerning your faith, and declare that you are indeed resting upon Christ, then it becomes you well to learn his will and to do it at once. By faith you are now a disciple of Jesus; learn, then, what your Master teaches, and, like a true disciple, do what he bids you cheerfully and carefully. It may possibly happen that your Lord's will is not according to the practices in which you have been brought up, and it is ill for a man to forsake the way of his fathers without just cause; but, since true religion is a personal thing, and you are bound by personal allegiance to Jesus, you must take care to examine the Word for yourself and follow no man blindly. You are now under the rule of Christ, and not under that of any other person living, so far as your conscience is concerned. "*One is your Master, even Christ*" (Matt. xxiii. 10), and he claims undivided allegiance. Therefore, do not hesitate, but loyally obey the will of your divine Lord, who saith, "*He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me*" (Matt. x. 37).

To many of us the Baptism of Believers is one of the things most clearly revealed in the Inspired Word, and we marvel greatly that all our fellow Christians do not see it to be so. It is to us as plain as the sun in the heavens, and we dare not shut our eyes to it. It is ours, however, not to quarrel with those who cannot see what is so very

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evident to us, but to set the truth before them in love, hoping that the whole church will yet come to acknowledge "*One Lord, one faith, one baptism*" (Eph. iv. 5). As for you, dear reader, you have little to do with what others think or practise. Your business is, in the exercise of an enlightened judgment, to compare Scripture with Scripture, and to endeavour, by the Holy Ghost's guidance, to arrive at a sure result. It cannot hurt you to look into the question by the light of your Bible, and it may hurt you a great deal to refuse to investigate, for prejudice is generally injurious.

One thing I ask of you: endeavour to shake off the prejudices of education, and let the Scripture, and the Scripture alone, be your guide in this matter. It has been said that "the Bible, and the Bible alone, is the religion of a Protestant." Certainly this is as it should be; but we fear it does not exactly describe a matter of fact; for some Protestants do many things which the Bible does not warrant. However this may be, make it true in your own case, and say concerning every matter which relates to spiritual things, "*To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*" (Isaiah viii. 20.)

Should you upon an honest search come to the same conclusion as the author of this little book, take heed of pride and contention. "*A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven,*" (John iii. 27.) therefore receive the truth humbly, and hold it firmly; but hold it in the spirit of gratitude to the Lord who taught it to you. Be determined to practise the Master's will, and be equally

resolute to manifest the Master's spirit. At the same time, fearlessly and zealously spread the truth which you have learned; for that which you have heard in the closet you are bound to speak upon the housetops (Matt. x. 27). Error upon the point of baptism is at the bottom of many of the greatest delusions of the present day. Count it, therefore, no trifle to know the truth concerning baptism, but ever "*be ready to give a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear*" (1 Peter iii. 15).

The little book which is here presented to you, almost in its ancient form, was first printed in Holland more than 200 years ago, by a servant of the Lord who was in exile for the faith. In a few words it contains many arguments. I have modernized its language, and somewhat altered it, to make the author's sense yet more plain to the reader; and I have added a little here and there to complete the subject, and now I send it forth with the earnest prayer that the Spirit of truth may set his seal upon it, by guiding many believers into the right path in the matter upon which it treats.

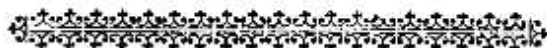
Not for the love of controversy, nor with the view of stirring up angry spirits, but from the love of Him who said, "*Thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness,*" this little book is commended to your careful perusal by

Your friend in Christ Jesus,

C. H. SPURGEON.



Baptism Discovered.



The Introduction.

COURTEOUS READER,

WHEN thou by reading goest to search out the mind of God, let thy Cry be, *Lord, anoint mine eyes with eye-salve, that I may see*; and if it hath been the day of God's Power with thy soul, I fear not but thou wilt bid Truth welcome, in whatever dress it comes; and think more upon what is comprized in the *Letter*, than be affrighted at the poor Clothing of the *Messenger*; especially, knowing that it comes from one whose name is "The great God." Therefore in handling this Truth, *vis.* Believers' Baptism, as it was practised by Christ and the Primitive Churches, my great Request to thee, is, That thou wilt read what is said without prejudice.