

meant "to put into water." It was used, for instance, of sailors who fell overboard and were drowned. They were said to be "baptized." The word was never used of putting something into water and taking it out again. A different word, *bapto*, "to dip," was used to express this meaning. Later on, before the time that the New Testament was written, the word *baptidzo* came to mean "to cleanse by means of water," no matter how it was done. Thus Mark 7:4 speaks of "the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables." The word translated "washing" is the noun form of *baptidzo*. Obviously the way that the tables were washed was not to dip them in water. It is interesting to note that the Greek word that is here translated "table" is only translated that way once in the New Testament. In the other nine cases it is translated "bed" (as in Mark 4:21 and 7:30). Whether it means bed or table, it obviously was not washed by dipping it in water. Baptism, as far as Christians are concerned, originally meant applying water in such a way as to symbolize washing, and it did not specify in what manner the water would be applied.

The discussion of the reason why I believe infants ought to be baptized would take a considerable amount of space. In common with great numbers of godly Christians, I believe that this is what the Bible teaches and therefore am glad to perform it in the churches with which I am connected. However, I have felt for a long time that the encroachments of modernism are so great in these days, and the efforts of Satan to lead people to abandon the essentials of Christian belief are so strong, that it is unfortunate to have any unnecessary division among true Christians over secondary matters. When I meet a man who feels that "baptize" means only "immerse," or who deprives little children of the baptism to which children of Christian parents are entitled, I feel that this matter is comparatively minor in relation to the great things of the faith. Many men have departed altogether from the faith and are not doing anything to lead souls into the kingdom. I rejoice in fellowship with any true Christian who stands squarely on the Fundamentals, even if he should be wrong on these points of baptism. I am always very sorry when I find divisions made among true Christians over this ceremony. While I regret that some individuals are in error on this matter, I would like to give them my help and support if they are standing true on the great points of the Gospel, and not in any way to make things difficult for them.