IT IS SETTLED!

"Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13b)

By Howell Lasseter

Quotes from Creed Books

In an earlier article it was noted that the first example of a departure from the Biblical mode of baptism (immersion, burial) came in 251 A.D. Water was poured upon a sick person, and this pouring was called "clinical baptism." Many denominations have accepted this mode of baptism. Here are some quotes from various creed books: "Affusion, or sprinkling is sufficient for Baptism, as well as immersion" (Catholic Dictionary, Addis and Arnold, p. 60; Question Box, p. 366); "Christ does not specify the mode of baptism. It may be performed in any one of three ways; namely, by sprinkling, pouring or immersion. One mode is just as valid as another" (Luther's Catechism, Stump, p.147); "There are three baptismal modes; immersion is not necessary, but one may be sprinkled or poured" (Presbyterian Confession of Faith, Chapter 30, p. 157); "Immersion is the rule of the church, and baptism by affusion (pouring water over the child's head) is the exception...but practically affusion has become adopted and immersion is seldom desired" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 223).

The Bible is unchanging and unchangeable. God says New Testament baptism: 1-is for those who have been taught (Matthew 28:19,20), who believe (Mark 16:15,16), and have repented (Acts 2:38); 2-is a burial, a planting (Romans 6:3-5); 3-is in water (Acts 8:35-38); 4-is for the remission of sins (1 Peter 3:21; Acts 22:16); 5-is the act that puts one into Christ (Galatians 3:27). No matter how many creed books teach otherwise; no matter how many men preach differently; no matter how many people believe the doctrines of men - the New Testament still reads the same. May it be the goal of each of us to read His Word, accept and believe it, and obey it!

The departures of the doctrine of "original sin" and the doctrine of "infant baptism" are closely related. We will be looking at these two departures in future columns.