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communications.

LIEF Intes

For the Lutheran Visitor. Mode of Baptism.

rued captisms in the New were certainly performed ling or washing with the in the case of the couches,) notized roashed : not by im-

that to suppose that they on between some of John's pouring, etc. s and the Jews about purify-Moses decides the manner of baptism. ng them. Hence, in Lev. we find this direction : "And all sprinkle upon him that is to sed from the leprosy seven ad shall pronounce him clean. all let the living bird loose open field." Num, viii: 7: cir clothes, and so make ves clean." And in allusion ablished and well under. ers our souls. work of baptizing, or sprinin order to cleanse or puri-Isa. lii: 15.) saving: "So

sprinkle many nations.

(c) For want of time, we will pass over several interesting passages of Scripture bearing upon the subject in hand, (such as Heb. vi : 2; Luke xi: 38; John ii: 6,) and turn next ing established the fact that to 1 Cor. x: 1, 2, where we have an not always mean to sub- allusion to the baptism of the Israelwill next inquire the true ites in the sea, in this language: of baptizo, one of the deriva- "All our fathers were under the And here it may be cloud, and all passed through the sea, at by the laws of etymol- and were all baptized-chaptisantounto Moses in the cloud and in the ives. Thus, pipto, to sen." The question here is, How "But why are you interested in and you say to him, "Come, my that now know me will know me no na derivative, ptaio, means were the Israelites baptized on that dogma !" or partly fall. The word memorable occasion, when the Egypt. "Well, sir," he said, derivative, daptizo, may theless calls the application of water maybe, the Ritualists." to the Israelites on this occasion a

come from the market, which water, in both cases, was ed one person what he understood by they wash, (Saptisontal,) they applied. But they were not dipped "dogma," and he told me, "the Inin water; for Moses expressly says fallitality of the Pope." I asked
the Jows to wash their hands (Ex. xiv: 22): "The children of another, and he told me he understing but what author ever Israel went into the midst of the sea stood it to mean "being set in one's that they entirely im- upon dry ground." How, then, could way, obstinate like." He had a fair themselves in water f Yet they have been immersed f But the water to a very tion of the body is called being checked by Omnipotence, and there back to dogma from "dogmatic." A being checked by Omnipotence, and third told me—and he was a "smart" American youth—that he thought color or feds. 'Cups and ticular event, the Psalmist (faxvif: 17) quarters, it occurred to me that a evidence is, "Thus saith the Lord." razen vessels might indeed says: "The clouds poured out water, little explanation might soften the Nay, more; the Bible itself proceeds the skies sent out a sound." And prejudice, or at least oblige Dogma's this sprinkling or pouring of the enemies to table some distinct charges. water, as it fell on them, so thorough. First of all, as to what is "dogma," knows how grandly the inspired wrihesitated not to call it baptime.

pouring, whilst it is not cer- nine case of immersion. The Egypt. suppose that to be the Dogma that Mr. Lecky may persuade themselves that they were performed by ian army was completely submerged gives such offence, for its enemies

in water, but by being wash- which neither baptize nor its cognates probably the offensive Dogma, the the hand, or sprinkled, to implies submersion. Our case is elements of settlement and authority the question, "What must I do to be any real or faucied impurity. then fairly made out, that to baptize being repulsive to many. His third The meaning of baptizo will be does not uniformly nor necessarily definition is not very clear-("a prin. e illustrated by reference to signify submersion; but frequently ciple of ) doctrine that is asserted or tlanity ! This is not Paul's way,

(d) It is a remarkable fact that, And they came unto John, and notwithstanding the copiousness of the "formally stated and authoritais he that was with thee the Greek language, whenever bap tively settled doctrine" that offends Jordan, to whom thou bear tism is spoken of by the New Testa educated persons, who know what position, with progressive salary, itness, behold the same bap ment writers, the same words are they are talking about. Now, what where you can make the most of and all men come to him." invariably used to express it. This is the harm of this ! If a "doctrine" yourself;" "Go West;" how much ect of dispute was a Jewish certainly does not arise from any is false, then it is an error, and to be ce called purification. But poverty in the Greek language, since rejected and denounced with a zeal tells us concerning the Leviti- there are several terms (as katabap. proportioned to its importance; but plays such as you; here is a letter to titutions, that they "stood tizo, embaptizo, embapto, and others,) if it be true-established, that is, on meats and drinks, and divers that express entire immersion. Yet proper evidence—is it any objection ga" - diaphorois baptismois, amidst this profusion of words to to it that it is formally stated or anifferent baptisms were differ- writers of the New Testament reject des of ablution, such as pour- them all when speaking of buptism, dogma-that is, nothing stated and is also Saviour, "Believe in the Lord prinkling, bathing, etc., and and confine themselves to baptizo the rest sprinkling was the and baptisma. And when speaking thought. There are at least one frequent and prominent. As of the ordinance of baptism, they do hundred dogmas in the multiplicawere all legal purifications, the or pouring upon—but emphatically tion table as commonly taught in

(To be continued.)

# The Needed Comforter.

We can not take a single step in our gloomy path without finding some trace of Him, the Comforter we need! For he is an afflicted Man. them: Sprinkle water of race, a Man of sorrows. If he wishes finds fault with mathematical dogmas, of the dogmas was another name for upon them, and let them to sympathize, he has only to recall the past. We can not light upon an affliction through which he has not passed before us; from that which

O ye who lie on beds of sickness, tortured with cruel pain, he knows the nature of the physical suffering a find Isaiah, in his remarkable which rests on your inner life thro of the atonement of the delicate chords connecting soul found at least these-

and body!

O ye who eat the bread of charity. and are distressed by all the cares of ekiel, too, when he depenury, he knows what poverty is! in future purification of the hall I sprinkle clean water mockery, he knows what ignominy against him. Here is a whole is; he knows it as you can never

ou, and ye shall be clean; four filthiness and from all O ye who bend and shudder over is I will cleanse you." Some-

sometimes blood (Lev. v: 9: tomb where his friend was laid! ix: 1-4), and sometimes friend, but also for a friendship; ye O ye who mourn not only for a Num. vini: 7); but the per- from whom life, and not death has he objects to be cleansed or taken a heart on which you leaned; were not dipped in oil or ye who have been forsaken; ye who and she replied in another way. water, since it was always have seen your brother's hand raised against you, be knows what abanstated that the oil, blood donment and betraval are; he knows those things as you can never know dogmas of morals, like those of reno evidence in favor of them, he who was sacrificed by a ligion, the widest possible acceptance. here is not the most on to it; but the weight and traversed beforelyou.

Selections.

## What is the Harm in Dogma?

BY REV. JOHN HALL, D.D.

and then the question was asked.

sik vil :4, we rend : "And baptism, from the similarity with in my turn, to put questions. I ask-

ly resembled the pouring or spring let us hear the great Webster, for ter steps forth, without postulate, with our professions, with the law of crowded city as on a lonely mound we many safely conclude that we that many of the purifi- kling of water on the head of the any man must have a kind of great. axiom, or definition, with, "In the God. candidate for baptism, that Paul ness who could produce "Webster Unabridged." He defines "dogma" It may be remarked that there in three ways. It is (1) "that which -the waters returned and covered have opinions enough of their own, "the dogmatic element" is rejected; the bosts of Pharach-athere re- are very fond of them, and usually and is sorry to find chastian preachbut Paul does not any that they were the defines to 121 as an established views, as given in the "History of tenet, a formally stated and authori-Here we have several cases in tatively settled doctrine. This is

ii: 25, 26: "Then there arose its utmost demands are sprinkling, taught without sufficient evidence." We are all unanimous against that. It may be assumed, then, that it is

"mighty inconvenient" to have no settled-in other departments of schools; that 5 x 5=25 is as formally stated and authoritatively settled as anything can be; and it would re-

True, mathematics is an exact christians. If one wished to expand the propositions in this reply, there would be

(a) There is a God. (b) There is a distinction between right and wrong. against him. Here is a whole group of the offending dogmas. If the help them little; and to belittle the lady had enjoyed the advantage of the open tomb, he knows what sor- reading the Ultramarine she might was used for cleansing (Lev. row is, and his hot tears fell into the have pronounced a smart little anatheand the impertinence of obtruding them upon her. But she had only "the learning of the Egyptians,"

Now men see no objections to "dogma" in morals. We only wish the people whom he had loaded with his benefits, forsaken by his disciples, desired by one apostle and sold by of affusion, pouring or suffering which he has not known of any mischief they have ever inflict-

We go further still, and say that would be singularly inconvenient. even for the strongest and best informed mind to be precluded from reflection, and say, with Job, "When ing, O Lord; in the morning will I in secret. The unsaved may pray personal use of dorma. We put it a few years are come, I shall go the direct my prayer unto thee, and will in a certain way in public; but they to the good sense of a parent. Your way whence I shall not return." Let look up." "Will you please tell me, sir, what little boy is taken to task for some us not only believe this, but think of And if this be your determination, in secret. Take some prayers and is 'dogma !" said a plain man, a thing of which his fart, at least, is it, and feel the importance of the the season will be the date of your try. Were we to pray that prayer useful member of a christian church, doubtful. He besitates, trembles on sentiment. Yes, in a little time I happiness. God himself says, "From in public, "Examine me," we must the very edge of a calsebood. You shall be no more seen. How-where this day will I bless you."- William change the word me to us, and pray, 'A concise explanation was given, see his temptation, and how his fear, shall I be disposed of? The seasons Jay. or something else, is working on him, will return as before; but the places child, don't be afraid to tell your more forever. Will this be a curse from it." Now, suppose the child, mercy, to the throne of grace, to the mercy, to the mercy, to the call of the mercy, to the mercy, to the call of the mercy, to the mercy, to the call of the mercy, to the mercy, to the call of the mercy, to the mercy, to the call of the mercy, the mercy of the mercy, the mercy of the mercy o God t how do you know he cares Lord, I shall, O blessed impossibili- turning from a meeting was asked if will try such a prayer alone with anything about it how do you know ty! return no more to these thorns she had had a good meeting. Her God, and repeat the experiment. It retard the business of life if a parent and briers, to this vain and wicked reply was, "Never a better." She will prove too much for him. must establish all these points by world, to this aching head, to this was asked who were present, and Or take another, and in social appropriate evidence to the child's throbbing heart, to these tempta her answer was, "God and I." So prayer we must again change a word. satisfaction, before proceeding to the tions and troubles, and sorrows and cial prayer was expected, but for "Search us, O God, and know us; next duty; and if he should say. sins. enter upon a discussion of the evi- faults this day." We are prope to closet, and shut thy door," etc. But prayer in company; but, beloved,

beginning God created the heavens

We are at a loss to know how any of christianity can be retained, while eruel injustice he does to the Scripsaved ?" Rejecting the "dogmatic" advice, direction, and help about emloyment. Should we say to them, "Get a good place;" "Find a safe nuch better for the applicants if we can say, "Mr. --

formally stated, and authoritatively his idea of authority was not repuling who settled the matter. No man equivalent to "the faith," and "men widows and fatherless to visit ?

average mankind, dogma-even posipractical example. A well known tive dogma, if you will-is necessary, The writer, in his first visit to Glasor uncivil. Now the sky in Glasgow does not always facilitate astronomichristian dogma at the same time, is

> erroneous dogmas we reject-false lies and dislike persecution. We all

How to Begin the New Year.

at and remem- or a blessing ! If I die in my sins, the truth and I shall return no more to my posses- together in one place to seek the and, face to face with an all-seeing

real religious teaching can be given appears sinful, and say, with Elihu, ways perplexed; and, like many But it is a test to God's people was also on the same occasion a gen. is held as an opinion." We do not without dogma. It is true, men like "If I have done iniquity, I will do so silent things, they have great power. whether they are thriving in the mained not so much as one of them;" introduce them freely to their friends, ers apparently re-cells his obvious it out, and cast it from thee; for it for prayer is the utterance of a if we come but seldom, and if when

sense. Ministers are often sonable service. He has infinite a Father; and while the Father gives, truly your own till you are His.

ligion; and if the worship of God has and says, "Ask, and ve shall re- sleepily offered after one has got inte never been established in your famil ceive." He is in a hurry to give ; bed, because too lazy to kneel before. y, now commence it-and say, with his heart outruns his hand. Nay, We refer to the communion with Joshua, "As for me and my house, he tells us that before his children God, permitted those who can not we will serve the Lord." A family call he will hear; the answer to the sleep; who, from illness, or care, or without prayer is like a house with prayer will meet the prayer on the constitutional infirmity, are com-

Jesus Christ." Here is something point to the book, without even know- from the fact that "dogma" was Are there no poor to relieve ! No open answer.

To be intelligible and distinct to in the arrangement of your affairs, so many " Jacob wrestled alone cious truths of His Word. Many of affects our bodies to that which with- young man was solicited to crime, and made proper by divine command as the duty of every day required." We have Elisha in secret with the fragrance of remembered hours of and replied, "How can I do this and example; and men know the God has said, "Let everything be dead child, and we have the open communion with friends, or special wickedness and sin against God?" The wilder in his few living boy in his experiences of your own soul, or the gow, asked a not over-busy man at a of your comfort will arise from regu- mother's loving arms. We have histories of others who made these corner the way to a public building. larity in your meals, in your devo- Daniel in secret prayer, and we have the vehicles of their devotion. "Go south and turn west," was the tions, in your callings; and your the open answer in the presence of But beyond all these is the sweet reply without any idea of being curt piety will be aided by it. Have a the angels in the den of lions with ness of prayer itself. You can then place to receive everything, an end Daniel. (c) He notices this and calls wrong cal observations. I did not know to simplify it, a rule to arrange it. O ye who have been overwhelmed wickedness and sin. (d) Adultery is which was south, and the direction Leave nothing for the morrow that prayer set forth in the example of There is great relief often in simply was useless. So to tell sinners to ought to be discharged to-day. Suf- Jesus. He lived in secret commu- telling him of our trials. It brings catch the spirit of christianity is to ficient for each period will be its nion with God. He spent whole us the sense of His sympathy, it own claims; and your mind ought nights in prayer. He went up into takes away the loneliness which one to be always at liberty to attend to a mountain alone (John vi : 15), and feels in sorrows which could be told "Ah! but," some one says, it is fresh engagements.

Finally. Time-this short, this alone in prayer. "Sit ye here while So the restless pillow may be ma upon such "religious dogmas, or dogmas, o That is to say, you disapprove of upon every instant of which eternity prayer, "Father, if it be possible, let the weary hours will be beguiled, agree about that; but would it not depends, will not allow of our trifling this cup pass from me," no one could and the night, which else would be wise to say it precisely, and save away any of its moments. Resolve, join, for no hand but his own could drag its slow pace along, will quickly misapprehension f For there has therefore, to redeem it. Gather up handle that awful cup, so this must pass. And He who seeth in secret never been true religion among a its fragments, that nothing be lost. have been secret prayer. people without dogma, and it is not Especially rescue it from needless Job asks, "Will the hypocrite almember a young man, in giving the clear that there ever will be; and to look for a community bolding and sleep; and if you have hitherto ac- ways call on God ?" The answer is history of his conversion when about perpetuating the spirit of christianity, customed yourself to the shameful not doubtful; he will not. He may to make a profession of religion, but rejecting its dogma, would be indulgence of lying late in bed, begin call on him in a certain way, but he stated that his first serious impresticians in our schools by throwing out the new year with the habit of early will not often, if ever, enter his closet sions were caused by hearing in our schools by throwing out the heavy father and mother, who slept in an out the theorems and propositions of Euclid and every equivalent work .- your health and improvement of do so, but it will be to the Almighty, adjoining room, praying for their

days and say, with David, "My who is not his Father. Oh, no; it is Let us begin the year with solemn voice shalt Thou hear in the morn- only children who come to a father

### Secret Prayer.

want of numbers it was secret prayer. try us, and know our heart, and see Let us begin the new year with It is to secret prayer the Lord refers if there be any wicked way in us, self inspection, and say, with the when he says (Matt. vi. : 6,) "Thou, and lead us in the way everlasting." of God ? "Must be now chief butler, "I do remember my when thou prayest, enter into thy I think we might get through this dences !" We could not get along think of the failings of our fellow. one may say, "I have no closet to could we go alone with God if not a "But," it may be said, "men are excatures, and often imagine because pray in." Well, thank God that you child, and ask the great God to deal it is said, "And many unto them on their right hand and safe they was the said, "And many unto them on their right hand and so with us?" "Search me, O God, own notions; what they called the said, "the may be said, "men are faultes, and often imagine because on their faults, that we are free from their faults, that we are free from their faults, that we are faultess. But we may have other and know my big head, in Reatisched with these definitions, and seeing the with these definitions, and seeing the with these definitions, and seeing the while a mote is in our brother's eye, and often imagine because on the great for one's not children, and you can, so with us? "Search me, O God, ehildren when your dog are faultess. But we may have one. You can bave and know me; try me and know my heart, and see if there be any wicked while a mote is in our brother's eye, while a mote is in our brother's eye, while a mote is in our brother's eye, cfounds; "and being in celebrating vehenience and frequency with which dren before God and to him, and a beam may be in our orders and a beam may be in our orders." I think to enter our God's praise, in relation to this par poor Dogma is scolded in so many plies them with dogma, of which the be open to conviction. Let us deal and pray to your Father. It is closet once with such a prayer would faithfully with our own hearts. Let worthy of notice that our Lord pray- be enough. Oh, brother, if not conus not compare ourselves with oth. ed alone while others were with him scious that there is no allowed sin in ers, and especially the more vile of (Luke ix: 18). He was praving our heart, we could not, we dare not our fellow-creatures; but with our alone, and yet his disciples with him. pray thus. If we can go to God, advantages, with our knowledge. So we can be as much alone in a and alone with him, to pray, I think tain. These prayers Satan can not belong to the one family of heaven Let us begin the year with a de hinder; by them he is often con- and earth, of which God is the termination to abandon whatever founded, and with them he is al. Father.

Begin the year with relative re- own accord. No; he comes to us,

posed; and we know who has threat. Every duty is a privilege; every hours of wakefulness. To such as ened to "pour out his fury upon the precept comes with a promise hid in these prayer is an unspeakable com ix: 10,) different baptisms. express immersion unequivocally, the thoritatively settled ! It would be wandering, like young Joseph in the families that call not upon his name. its bosom. "Draw near to God," is fort. field, is directed to the Brother, who Begin the year with a fresh con the duty; "He will draw near to God is then especially near. The cern to be useful-and ask, with thee," is the promise. And so prayer deep silence of the night, the all-en-Saul of Tarsus, "Lord, what wilt is a command. But then, like the veloping darkness, which, as a cur-Thou have me to do !" Let me look ravens to Elijah, it comes with meat tain, he has drawn over the sleeping Authority, indeed, is repulsive to at my condition, my resources, my in its mouth. Oh, what a privilege world, the helplessness and depen many who like to say, "Our tongues opportunities. How can I glorify to be allowed to speak to God, to dence in which all are laid, give the are our own." But of the five places God, and promote the welfare of my ask him for all laid up in the promses, most impressive realization of His which "dogma" is used in the New fellow creatures? Is there not a and to ask, assured that he is able being and presence. It is good at thority, like "the decree (dogma) Bible to spread f And there not to do above all that we are able to such times, if you can, to recite to tard education very much if every from Cassar," in Luke ii : 1, or "the missionaries to support ! Are there ask; and that he will, because he yourself passages from the Scripdecrees" (dogma) of the Synod at none perishing for lack of knowledge, hath said it! "Ye shall receive." tures. With what force and sweet Jernsalem (Acts xvi: 4.) And that I can myself instruct? Have I He has condescended to say that he ness do they come to you, and what sive to the primitive church appears no irreligious neighbors to reclaim ! will reward secret prayer with an fullness of comfort have they for the

> He hath done so, and cases are miliar hymns, which, indeed, are ut Begin the year with more conduct recorded; "but what are these among terances in other forms of the prewho "did according to the custom, answer in Esau weeping on his neck. ciations they bring with them, the

even in the hour of agony he was in no earthly ear.

levery kind, and live much longer and he will find neither pleasure nor children during the night.

than others in the same number of profit in praying to an Almighty will not come face to face with God "Examine us, O Lord ; prove us ; try our hearts and reins." And unsaved men might lose themselves in the crowd, and join in the prayer; but When two or three are gathered the unsaved man will not go alone,

no more." Should the evil course. A duty arising out of the relation divine life or not. If we are often or the evil passion solicit, let it pleat in which the creature stands to God. with God in secret, and can come in vain while the Saviour Judge says, Every man lives and moves in God, with filial confidence and ask, we "If thy right eye offend thee, plack and so every man is bound to pray; must be in a good state of soul; but is promable for thee that one of thy creature owning his dependence on we are in our closet we feel shy and members should perish, and not that the Creator. But when we enter the embarrassed, if we go in with relucthy whole body should be cast into family of God by faith in Christ tance, and hurry out of God's pres-Jesus, prayer is the breath of the ence, and feel that we breathe more Begin the year with pious and new man; and hence Christ enjoins freely when we are out, things are personal dedication, and say, with it as a duty: "Thou, when thou pray- not with us as they once were, or as David, "Lord, I am thine, save me," est, enter nto thy closet, and pray they should be, and the scoper we Through Him, who is the way, yield to thy Father," etc. You will see get this strangeness when with God vourselves unto God. It is your real that now it is a child dealing with removed, the better .- The Christian.

# Pillow Prayers.

pelled to drag through the weary

tired and sorrowing! So with fa

talk with your Father with the ut-We have the privilege of secret most freedom, and even familiarity.