

Ms f 1056

Ms d 7045

3 March 1840 letter from U. Hay Jacob to O. Granger

When I left your house you and some others seemed to express dissatisfaction because I refused to communicate some important truths to you, which I professed to communicate some important truths to you, which I professed to be acquainted with. The fact is I offered to read the evening before to you, but you would not hear, no, not so much as the preface to my book, it was therefore impossible to communicate any thing to men who had no ears. Yet I am willing to do you good as far as possible. I therefore send you an extract from my book on Baptism as follows.--There is a great deal said in this generation respecting Baptism; and it has become a bone of contention, I have thought it might be useful to devote a few paragraphs to this subject. The Campbellites so called, and the Mormonites are remarkably tenacious of water baptism, and they are constantly harping upon a particular text of scripture pronounced by Peter. Acts 2. 38-39 which they evidently misunderstand. It reads thus. Then Peter said unto them (lengthy excerpt from his book is then written).

Brethren my hearts desire, and prayer to god is that you might be saved from the bitterness, and false wrath created in you by sorcery. For I bear you record that you have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. As baptism is now made an idol it is not meet that the saints should bow to it. Altho in Peters days it might be useful, yet now it is made an idol, and neither baptism nor unbaptism availeth any thing in Christ Jesus, but a near feature. These people who teach that we must be baptized in order to receive the Holy Spirit--might as well teach, that we must first love God, in order to make him love us. This is precisely the same idea in a different form. But we know better--being taught of Christ. We love God because he first loved us. If we were baptized it would be, because our sins were remitted, and because we had received the Holy Spirit, and being disposed thus to signify these facts to the world. This is an extract from my book, and I desire you to show it to the young man who sat by the table that evening and to your Printer, & to Joseph Smith, and to Sidney Rigdon, and let them refute it if they can. But it is the truth, and he that denies it, as long as lives in this world, can never have a right to the tree of life, neither can he enter in through the gates into the City. Remember you are acting for Eternity which is now but just before you.--So farewell.

U.H. Jacob

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