clergymen, practiced affusion in their ministry. Dr. Robertson also declares that no immersionist has ever written a New Testament lexicon; but he fails to give a reason why these eighteen men, though in their lexicons they give *immersion* as the primary meaning of *baptizo*, practiced affusion as he asserts they did. In seeking the answer, rather than to assume that these good men were untrue to their convictions, it would be well to look more carefully at the Greek text which they interpret and to give scope, as there men evidently did, to the more vital, secondary meaning of the word *baptizo*.

<div align="right">Article "Ritual Baptism," pp 37-38</div>

Joseph Henry Thayer, in his *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, gives as the meanings of *baptizo*:

1. prop. to dip repeatedly, to immerge, submerge.
2. to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water ... to bathe.
3. metaph. overwhelm, ... to be overwhelmed with calamities.

And William F. Arndt and F. Wilbur Gingrich in their *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, define *baptizo* to mean to "dip, immerse, wash."

Now the question comes to our minds, how can Thayer give the meanings, "to wash, to make clean with water, to bathe," and how can Arndt and Gingrich give the meaning "to wash" for *baptizo*, if the word *always* and only meant to "dip, immerse, submerge"? It is to be noticed that the first meaning given by Thayer (where there is a notable usage in the classical Greek) is usually the meaning of that word in the classical Greek; then follow its meanings in the Septuagint (if any) and the New Testament. In his Preface (page vii) Thayer explains that "... the exposition of classical usage is often intended merely to serve as a standard of comparison by which the direction and degree of a word's change in meaning can be measured." So that to select Thayer's *first* meaning and apply it to New Testament usage may be to ignore the change which has taken place in the history of the word.