

that thy Son also may glorify thee, as thou hast given Him power over all flesh that He may give eternal life to as many as thou hast given Him, and this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent."

"And this is life eternal that they might know the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

JESUS CHRIST NOT AN ATHEIST.

Well, these words tell us that Jesus Christ is not an Atheist.

These words tell us that Jesus Christ believed there is a God. He prayed, and prayer supposes a God. It seems useless to pray otherwise, and nonsensical as well as useless. It seems absurd for a being like man, endowed with such faculties of mind and heart—no matter how he got them, or how they have been trained—on the supposition that there is no God. But it would appear to be better simply to look at the fact that Jesus Christ, being the person he was—for perhaps in this argument it is better to use the past tense—nevertheless prayed. Had he been merely an enthusiast, carried away with some fond imagination in which the religious element partly mingled, had He been merely a well instructed Jew, who ashamed of the sad departure of the nation from the letter and spirit of the teaching of Moses, was anxious to restore the law to its due place and power in forming and guiding the national mind according to the original design of their great lawgiver, He might have been induced to give to prayer a very prominent place in his teaching and practice. But He was something other and higher than this. Enthusiast He was, but his was the enthusiasm of sobriety. It was enthusiasm coupled with hatred of ostentation, and a love of retirement bordering on seclusion. Intelligent he was and so much so that the people were astonished at his doctrine, from his boyhood all the time till he had told all he was commissioned to tell, and wondered at all the gracious words that proceeded out of his mouth. But his was intelligence that exposed the pretensions of the leaders of religious thought and religious practice—who

loved to pray at the corners of the streets, to be seen of men, and yet with all this superiority over men, who aspire or have aspired to teach the way of truth to their fellows somewhat perfectly, He prayed and thus shewed that He was devout as well as intelligent and enthusiastic, and declared that He needed and was not ashamed to ask the help of a higher power, and the guidance of a profounder wisdom than men possess, if not on His own behalf, on the behalf of the weak and erring whom he came to bless. And then Jesus prayed naturally. He went to the temple at the hour of prayer. He worshipped regularly in the synagogue. He often prayed with the twelve disciples, and on rare occasions, as of his transfiguration and agony, he took with him a select few to see His glory in its height and His humiliation in its depth, and to hear—what it is a wonder man should hear at all—the prayers that then He presented to God, and most of all and best of all, as bearing on the argument, He prayed alone; Himself practised what He taught others. And thou, when thou prayed, enter into thy closet and shut thy door, and pray to thy Father who seeth in secret, and thy Father who seeth in secret will reward thee openly. Jesus was no Atheist then. Had he been an Atheist he would not, and he could not, have prayed as he did. From his practice we learn his creed, and the conclusion is inevitable, that just because he was given to prayer, he believed there was a God who heard and answered it, and who was able to do exceedingly above all that the most wide-minded and the most large-hearted petitioner could ask or think.

JESUS NOT A PANTHEIST.

But these words tell us that Jesus Christ was not a Pantheist. No. They tell us that as He believed there is a God, so He believed that God is. Is as a personality. Is an object of worship. Is so that he could pray to him. Had Christ held it that God is nature, or nature God, could he have used the words he here employs, or would he have done so when engaged in worshipping? Having such treasures of wisdom and knowledge as He sheweth He had, and