Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God." And so on throughout the numerous instances of Apostolic preaching and successes recorded in the Book of the Acts, this great article of speculative faith stands conspicuous and alone; — alone, if we make this one other exception, that in some cases the undisputed Christian doctrine of a future life, of "the resurrection of the dead," is brought forward.

Now we mean not to say, that there are no other speculative doctrines revealed in the New Testament. On the contrary, we and all Christians do believe some others; though from our different modes of interpreting language and weighing evidence we differ somewhat as to what those doctrines are. But we do mean to say that, after the exceptions of speculative truth just considered, which all Christians believe and equally alike, moral truth and moral teaching hold the highest and the largest place in the gospel.

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Call it, therefore, by whatever name you please, "Election, Preterition, Predestination, or Reprobation," it comes, in the end, to the same thing. The sense of all is plainly this—"By virtue of an eternal, unchangeable, irresistible decree of God, one part of mankind are infallibly saved, and the rest infallibly damned; it being impossible that any of the former should be damned, or that any of the latter should be saved."

But if this be so, then all preaching is vain. It is needless to them that are elected. For they, whether with

^{*} See his sermon on Free Grace.