

Every one knows that it is a very great work to create the smallest particle of matter. To make a grain of sand, or drop of water, or little insect, is far too mighty a work for the mightiest of angelic beings to achieve. To create the sand upon the sea-shore, the ocean, the dry land, the moon and stars, and all the suns and systems of worlds in the wide universe was a great work. But all that was necessary to accomplish this was the forth-putting of Jehovah's power. He who brought all the countless worlds that adorn and beautify the fields of immensity into being spake and it was done, he commanded and they each one of them took their appointed position on the map of existence. By his word were the heavens made and all the hosts of them by the breath of his mouth. But the work of propitiation was a far greater work than the work of creation; and we have reason to believe that all holy beings in the universe will contemplate the finished work of Christ on Calvary as the greatest and the grandest of all the great and grand works of God.

But again: the work which Christ finished on the cross was a *very difficult work*.

That its greatness was one of its glories all will admit; but it is easy to see that its being *finished notwithstanding its difficulty* is one of its peculiar and distinguishing glories.

To raise the widow's son at the gate of Nain was a great work, but Jesus felt no difficulty in doing it. The words, "Young man arise," were sufficient. To bring the departed soul of Jairus' daughter back from the world of spirits, and restore the dead damsel to her weeping parents was a work which Christ could easily do.

To raise from the cold grave the sleeping brother of Martha and Mary was a great work, but the words "Lazarus come forth," flowing from the lips of the "Resurrection and the Life," were quite sufficient to accomplish it.

But words flowing from the lips of him who spake as never man spake were not enough to make atonement for sin. Words could not effect the great work of propitiation. No, it required obedience and suffering and death before the work could be done. Without the shedding of blood there could be no remission, no salvation, no sanctification. Justice required to be satisfied, and words could not do that; the broken law required to be honoured, and its curse endured, and words could not do that; hence the obedience unto death, even the death of the cross, was necessary. He