

But this is not all; the divine man glorified his Father by the *doctrines which he taught.*

"He spake as one having authority, and as never man spake." He showed himself to be a teacher, a great teacher,—the greatest of all teachers. He had the tongue of the learned, and knew how to speak a word in season to the weary, the heavy-laden, and the sin-burdened soul. He unfolded the character of God, the purity and spirituality of the law, the evil of sin, the helplessness of man without supernatural interposition, the immortality of the soul, the universality of his Father's love, his own love, and the love of the Spirit.

But we must now turn our attention more particularly to the *finished work*, of which Christ speaks when he says, "I have glorified thee on the earth, I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."

The atonement for sin, or the great propitiation, is evidently the work to which our Lord here refers. It was for the accomplishment of this work that he veiled his glory, was born and lived and suffered and died in our world. When he says *I have finished the work* which thou gavest me to do, he evidently speaks by anticipation. Our Lord was just about to lay down his life. The great high priest was on his way to the altar, he was just about to offer up himself as an offering and a sacrifice to God. His soul was in the very act of making itself an offering for sin; the last great conflict was so near, the hour of his crucifixion on Calvary was so close at hand, that he speaks of it as over, and his work as a finished and accepted work. Like a mighty warrior immediately after the victory is gained, and the combat ended, the Captain of our salvation begins to contemplate the consequences which are to follow his achievements. In the thirtieth verse of the nineteenth chapter we have these remarkable words, "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said IT IS FINISHED, and he bowed his head and gave up the Ghost." The *nearness* of its accomplishment and the *certainly* of its accomplishment led him to speak of it as already done. "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." Dear reader, let us seriously consider the import and the importance of the work here spoken of, and as we do so, let us bear in mind the dignity and proper Divinity, as well as true humanity, of the Person who finished it.

The work which Christ finished on the Cross was a *very great work.*