

Christ's Zeal for God's House.

A SERMON.

"For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee, have fallen upon me.—PSALMS lxxix. 9.

This psalm is headed a psalm of David. He was the inspired penman of it, and, as he was also a typical character, it may readily be supposed that it sets forth some circumstances which may have had a counterpart in his personal history, and expresses some of the feelings which may have been working in his mind, amid the trials with which he was at times exercised. At the same time, it is very evident that a greater than David is here—that he who was at once David's Son and David's Lord is here to be contemplated; and, particularly, that, in the words of our text, we have presented to us the grand ruling principle which influenced him throughout the whole of that work for the accomplishment of which, although himself in the form of God and thinking it no robbery to be equal with God, he took upon himself the form of a servant, and being found in fashion as a man he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross. He it was who, addressing his Father, could, in the proper meaning of the words, declare, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and who was so fully identified with God and his cause that the reproaches of them that reproached God fell upon him.

In the exposition of the words, we have to remark that the word which is here translated "zeal" implies that deep interest in any object—that strong affection of the mind towards it—which awakens—what is more directly expressed—zeal in promoting its well-being, jealousy in regard to any estrangement, and