

the things of heaven, till their heart burned within them,—Luke xxiv. 32.

II: When the glory of the Lord shone around the Shepherds, and the angel appeared to them, they were sore afraid, v. 9. If good men are afraid when some of the glories of heaven appear on earth, how much more reason have they to be astonished if suddenly called to appear in glory? If good men are afraid in the presence of an angel how must bad men feel when suddenly summoned in the presence of God?

III. One angel appeared with a message, and many others with a song. The message was one of good news, v. 10., of great joy to people of every country and every clime, because it announced the birth of an anointed Saviour. The song which the angels sang was a short song, but it was sweet and full of meaning. Angel's had sung a song of praise, on the morning of creation.—Job. xxxviii. 5. They had sung a song on the survey of God's providence,—Isa. vi. 3,—but now they sing a higher and more glorious song, v. 14.

IV. The Shepherd's were not long of acting on the information they received from heaven. Let us go, &c., v. 15. It was with them as with the sinner. When the word of the Lord comes to them with power they do not think so much of the messenger as of the message. They felt that the thing which the Lord communicated to them was of more importance than the angels. It is interesting to read of them stirring each other up to go in company to seek Jesus,—John i. 41.

V. As soon as the Shepherds saw Christ, v. 16, they published the tidings abroad, v. 17. This was the way with the woman of Samaria,—John iv. 29. With Andrew,—John i. 41. With sinners converted. Now it is interesting to note that the very first preachers among men of a Christ come to save sinners were shepherds, and that their labours were blessed,—1 Cor. i. 27. They found Christ themselves before they commended Him to others.

VI. The Shepherds imitated the angels, by their praising, and glorifying God. Like them they did not keep the information to themselves, but spread it abroad. The higher Christians become in spirituality, the more do they become like the angels in their endeavours to serve and glorify Him.

VII. Mary was a wise and humble woman. She heard many things, but she kept and pondered them in her heart, v. 19.

Learn, 1. To seek Jesus, Seek Him when young. Seek Him at once.

2. When ye have found Jesus yourself, urge others to seek Him also.

A great and good man died a few years ago in Edinburgh, Scotland. On his death-bed

he gave a parting counsel and blessing to each of his children. To the youngest of a tender age, he simply said with his blessing, "Seek Jesus." These words were impressed on the Child's memory. When the spirit of the father had departed to the God that gave it. When the weeping friends and visitors were overwhelmed with sorrow. The little child, unconscious of her loss, was going about addressing each individual she met, the sweet and appropriate words, "Seek Jesus, seek Jesus." Reader, go and do likewise.

Who are your Companions ?

It is said to be the property of the tree-frog that it acquires the colour of whatever it adheres to for a short time. Thus, when found on growing corn, it is commonly of a dark green. If found on the white oak it has the colour peculiar to the tree. Just so it is with men. Tell me whom you choose and prefer as companions, and I certainly can tell you who you are like. Do you like the society of the vulgar?—Then you are already debased in your sentiments. Do you seek to be with the profane? In your heart you are like them. Are jesters and buffoons your choice friends? He who laughs at folly is himself a fool. Do you love and seek the society of the wise and good? Is this your habit? Would you rather take the lowest seat among such, than the highest among others? Then you have already learned to be good. You may not have made much progress, but even a good beginning is not to be despised. Hold on your way, and seek to be the companion of all that fear God. So you shall be wise for yourself, and wise for eternity.

CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

Lord Jesus, thou light of truth and Sun of righteousness, shed thy bright beams upon my heart, that I may know, and knowing, Love thee. Help me, my strength, by whom I am sustained; shine upon me, my Light, by whom alone I see, and quicken me, my Life, by whom alone I live. For thou only art my Help and my Light, my Life and my Joy, my Lord and my God?—[St. Augustine.]