

good Shepherd, who knew his sheep, and would lay down his life for them." The title of *pastor* or shepherd, therefore, conveys an expression of the great *trust* committed to the ministers of Christ, and supposes a constant and a tender care in *looking after*, in *instructing*, in *watching over*, and in *guarding* the flocks intrusted to their care, against *errors* and *sins*.

The title of *ambassador* is also given to the ministers of Christ. And the embassy on which they are sent is the noblest and most important on which the sons of man can be employed. Their special business is to treat of peace between God and man. To them is committed the word of reconciliation. They are commissioned by Christ, and do speak in God's name, as if God did beseech men by them: so do they in Christ's stead press men to be reconciled to God."

Another, and a more glorious title belonging to the ministers of God is that of *angels*, who, as they are of a purer and sublimer nature, and are called "a flaming fire;" so do they *always* behold the face of our heavenly Father, and *ever* do his will; and they are also *ministering* spirits, sent forth to minister to them that are appointed to be heirs of salvation; they are called "the angels of the churches, and also the glory of Christ."

We, brethren of the ministry, are but men—men of like passions and infirmities with others; but the sublime and momentous end of our ministry reflects great honor and attaches immense importance to it. Things common or mean in themselves, acquire unspeakable excellence and importance by association and destiny. And thus God puts great honor on his ministering servants, by intrusting to them the care of the never-dying soul, and by allowing them to be "fellow-workers with Christ," in the great scheme of salvation. And when all the works of every other workman shall be forgotten; when the noblest paintings that the world ever saw shall