

THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

(Read John x. 1-18 ; 25-30.)

How sweet and precious to the heart, and profitable to the soul, of the believer, to search out and meditate upon any of the characters in which the Lord Jesus comes before us, as recorded by the Holy Spirit, in the word of God. Perhaps there is none more so than that of "The Shepherd."

First, let us see what the significance of that title is, apart from any qualifying word as "good," "great," "chief," which we find used in connection with shepherd, and applied to our Lord, and which we will consider farther on ; for in ver. 10, He speaks of Himself as "The Shepherd of the sheep." In Genesis xlii. 34, we read : "Every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians." Does this not furnish us with the clue ? Egypt is the type of the world in its natural state, from which the people of God are delivered. A shepherd then is a position despised by the world. Is not that a suitable description of the place that the blessed Lord Jesus took on coming into this world ? "He is despised and rejected of men . . . we hid as it were our faces from Him ; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not" (Is. liii. 3. See also Is. xlix. 7 ; Ps. xxii. 6 ; lxix. 7, 12 ; Matt. ii. 23 ; Phil. ii. 7, 8, etc.). How all the incidents connected with His birth into this world