

"GIVE, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN UNTO YOU."

A pilgrim at the door. With weary feet and sore, In faltering steps he sought to pass...

With face of heaven's glow: "Take this," was murmured low, "A cup of wine and a crust of bread."

Then to my wandering ear, These words seemed whispered near, "Intones seraphically: 'This is to me done.'

AN ESSAY. Read before the South-Eastern Seventh-Day Baptist Association, and published by request.

What is the Office and Duty of a Pastor and what are the Duties of a Church to its Pastor?

The subject assigned to me contains two distinct questions, which I will proceed to consider, each in its order.

I. WHAT IS THE OFFICE AND WORK OF A PASTOR?

To define correctly the office of a pastor is very nearly to define also his work; but for distinctness of thought we may consider them separately.

1. What is the Idea of the Pastor's Office?

The word pastor is derived from the Latin *pasco*, which means to feed. So the primary meaning of pastor is *one who feeds*, hence a shepherd.

Webster defines the word thus: "A shepherd; one who has the care of flocks and herds."

A minister of the gospel who has charge of a church and congregation, whose duty it is to watch over the people of his charge and instruct them in the sacred doctrines of the Christian religion."

The significance of the name as applied to a class of ministers is derived from the office of shepherd in the olden time, where there were no fenced pastures, and where wild beasts abounded.

They did not drive their flocks, as modern custom might lead us to suppose, but went before them calling their sheep by name, leading them from place to place to find pasture, watching over them while feeding, and at night gathering them into folds for safety.

The shepherd is beautifully described by our Saviour, "But he that entereth in by the door [i. e., into the safe fold] is the shepherd of the sheep.

To him the porter openeth, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calleth his own sheep by name and leadeth them out; and when he hath led forth his own sheep he goeth before them, for they know his voice, and a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him, for they know not the voice of strangers."

The office of shepherd requires constant watchfulness day and night, for not only were there wolves and other beasts to prey upon the flock, but there were also thieves and robbers to steal into the folds at night, if left unguarded.

The shepherds, to whom the angels announced the birth of our Saviour, were "keeping watch over their flocks by night. Thus, it is in a figurative sense that he who is entrusted with the watchcare, instruction and guidance of a people in spiritual things, is called a shepherd or pastor.

In the same figurative way the people of his charge are called a flock. This figurative sense came into use very early. When Moses was told that he could not lead the people into Canaan, he prayed: "Let the Lord, the God of the spirit of all flesh, set a man over the congregation which may go out before them, and which may lead them on, and which may bring them in, that the congregation of the Lord may not be as sheep which have no shepherd."

The Sabbath

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN SABBATH TRACT SOCIETY. "THE SEVENTH DAY IS THE SABBATH OF THE LORD YOUR GOD."

VOLUME XXX.—NO. 26. ALFRED CENTRE, N. Y., FIFTH-DAY, JUNE 25, 1874. WHOLE NO. 1534.

Lord. Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people. Ye have scattered my flock and have not visited them away and have not visited them. So it is evident that in Scripture usage the words shepherd and pastor mean the same.

(2.) Pastoral visitation. Next in importance to preaching is pastoral visitation. This is comprehended in, though it may not include all that is meant by the words of Peter, "taking the oversight thereof."

Without a familiar acquaintance with the individuals of his flock and a knowledge of their modes of thinking, their doubts, their difficulties, &c., a pastor cannot properly adapt his preaching to their wants.

It is very clear that to accomplish the work of a pastor as above described will demand all the energies, and time, and talent of any ordinary man.

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Very few, if any, Christians would ever become mature in doctrine and practice without much instruction, and no church can become well developed without an instructor.

He who does not seek the straying and the lost sheep is not a true shepherd. One of the complaints which God brought against the shepherds of Israel was that they had not "brought again that which was driven away."

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Miscellaneous.

BIRDS IN THE BUSH.
By A. A. Shaw.
Often by the wayside we find...

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