

## CHRIST OUR SHEPHERD — ISAIAH 40:11

*He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.*

The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Shepherd of his sheep. In the Old Testament Scriptures it was prophesied that Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God, our Redeemer would come into the world as a Man and that one chief characteristic of his work of redemption and grace would be that of a shepherd buying, seeking and gathering his sheep (Isaiah 40:11; 49:10; Ezekiel 34:11-23; 37:24). When David meditated upon these things, his heart bubbled over with joy, confidence, faith and hope. He sang, — *“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want”* (Psalms 23:1).

In the New Testament three distinct adjectives are used to set forth the characteristics of Christ as our Shepherd. In his great work of redemption our Saviour is called “The Good Shepherd” (John 10:11). In his resurrection glory he is called “The Great Shepherd” (Hebrews 13:20). And, in reference to his glorious return, Peter declares him to be “The Chief Shepherd” (1 Peter 5:4). Our Lord Jesus Christ is the good Shepherd with reference to his work of redemption, the great Shepherd with reference to his resurrection and the chief Shepherd with reference to his glorious return. These three adjectives are always distinct. They are never mingled together or interchanged. Each is used in its proper place and setting with reference to the Son of God and the accomplishments of his mediatorial work by which he gathers his lambs and saves his sheep.

*Don Fortner*

## REFLECTIONS ON ZECHARIAH 13

Reader! here is a fountain indeed opened for sin and uncleanness; Jesus hath opened it, and supplied it with his heart's blood. The grand question is, are we washed in it? Have we found it to be peace-speaking blood, and heart-cleansing blood? Can we truly say of it, as David did of the whole covenant; it is all my salvation, and all my desire!

Precious Lord Jesus! the sword hath indeed awakened, at the command of Jehovah, against thee, when thou stoodest as the surety of thy people. But, oh! thou sin-bearing Lamb of God! what shall I offer thee of thanks and praise, since by thy stripes my soul is healed, and thou wert made sin for thy redeemed, that they might be made the righteousness of God in thee!

Lord! I thank thee, in all the exercises of my warfare, when bringing me through the fiery trials of sorrow and temptation; the conflict is not to know, whether I am thine, for that is already proved, and the issue is not doubtful; but it is to prove me, and to show me what is in mine heart; that thy grace may have all the praise, and all the glory, from beginning to end. Oh! for unceasing grace while Jesus owns me to be his, to say with the Church of old, my beloved is mine, and his desire is towards me.

*Robert Hawker*

**Hebrews 13:20,21** - Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

# Biblical Gospel Church

*Preaching the unsearchable  
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## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### 11:00 am (GMT+1) Service

*Zechariah 13:7-9*

*"Smite The Shepherd"*

Traditional worship with hymns, prayer, Bible readings and a sermon based on a passage of the Bible.

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## Reading John 10:7-18

155 tune 808

*J Hart*

1 The fountain of Christ, assist me to sing,  
The blood of our Priest, our crucified King;  
Which perfectly cleanses from sin and from filth,  
And richly dispenses salvation and health.

2 This fountain so dear, he'll freely impart;  
Unlocked by the spear, it gushed from his heart,  
With blood and with water; the first to atone,  
To cleanse us the latter; the fountain's but one.

4 This fountain, sick soul, recovers thee quite;  
Bathe here and be whole, wash here and be  
white;  
Whatever diseases or dangers befall,  
The fountain of Jesus will rid thee of all.

6 This fountain unsealed stands open for all  
That long to be healed, the great and the small.  
Here's strength for the weakly that hither are led;  
Here's health for the sickly, here's life for the  
dead.

## Prayer

## Reading Zechariah 12:9-13:9

### Prayer

160 tune 101

*W Cowper*

1 There is a fountain filled with blood,  
Drawn from Immanuel's veins,  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,  
Lose all their guilty stains.

2 The dying thief rejoiced to see  
That fountain in his day;  
And there have I, as vile as he,  
Washed all my sins away.

3 Dear dying Lamb! thy precious blood  
Shall never lose its power,  
Till all the ransomed church of God  
Be saved, to sin no more.

4 E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream  
Thy flowing wounds supply,  
Redeeming love has been my theme,  
And shall be till I die.

## Sermon

560 tune 671

*W Gadsby*

1 O thou mighty God and Saviour  
Give us faith thy works to trace;  
Heavenly Warrior, may we never  
From thee turn away our face;  
May we view thee, x2  
Standing in our wretched place.

2 Armed with wrath and righteous vengeance,  
Justice once unsheathed its sword;  
Death and hell were its attendants,  
And Jehovah gave the word:  
"Smite the Shepherd; x2  
Let my wrath on him be poured."

4 Gaze, ye Christians, gaze and wonder;  
See the mighty Hero fight;  
He has burst their bands asunder,  
And completely spoiled their might,  
Yes, this Warrior, x2  
Put the hosts of hell to flight.

5 Now the battle's fought and gainèd;  
Jesus, our victorious Lord,  
Rushed into the hosts, and stainèd  
All his garments in their blood;  
But he conquered, x2  
And redeemed the church to God.