





NOVEMBER 22

Our Shepherd

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.

ISAIAH 40:11



If Christ is dear to you, Christ is your Shepherd and He feeds you in green pastures; He has laid down His life for His sheep; and will you not love such a Shepherd? He is your Captain, who has conquered all your enemies for you, and leads you on to take the spoils, and will you not love such a leader? He is your Prophet, who teaches you the most excellent things that ever were taught, the highest mysteries, the most glorious truths, which are of the greatest concernment to know and believe; and He teaches you in the most excellent way by His Word and Spirit; opening your understandings, as well as His truths, giving you light, and an eye to discern this light; and will you not love such a teacher? He is your High Priest, who has made satisfaction for you, and makes intercession for you to reconcile you unto God; and His intercession is incessant and prevalent; and will you not love such an advocate? He is your King, who rules you most powerfully and righteously, most wisely and graciously, and will you not love such a Sovereign? He is your Benefactor, the most kind and bountiful, and no gifts are comparable unto His gifts; and will you not love such a friend? He is your Brother, and, if He be not ashamed to own you for His brethren and sisters, will it not be a shame if you should withhold from Him your hearts? He is your Husband, and you are joined to Him by the Spirit and faith in such bonds as cannot be broken; and will not you embrace Him in the arms of your dearest love?

NOVEMBER





NOVEMBER 23

CHRIST'S FREE LOVE

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

ISAIAH 55:1



Consider that Christ loves you with the freest love; there are many motives and attractions for your love to Christ, but Christ's love to you is most free; nothing in yourselves to draw and engage His love, except deformity and enmity to Him, except filthiness which He loathes, and wickedness which His soul hates, be motives. There is no man in the world that loves you, but He finds or fancies some loveliness in you; something to be a motive to draw His love to you; wit is a motive to some, wealth to others, beauty to some, strength to others, near relation to some, dear love to others, liberality to some, service to others, greatness to some, goodness to others; likeness, whether it be in good or evil, is a motive to the love of the most. But Christ's first love to you is altogether free; that which is a motive to men, and induces their love to you, is no motive to incline the love of Christ: the sin which you brought into the world with you, and the many sins which, since you came into the world, have been committed by you, are enough to shut out all motives of love in Christ, unto whom all sin is so odious and abominable. Whatever motive induced Christ to love you, it was not drawn from yourselves, but it was drawn from His own bowels: and will not this free love of Christ incline you to love Him? Does He love you most freely, and will you not love Him most dearly? Did Christ love you without any motive to draw His love, and will not you love Christ, in whom there are so many motives to draw your love?