"How do the beasts groan! The herds of cattle are <u>Perplexed</u>, <u>Because They Have No Pasture</u>; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate." Joel 1:18 KJV

When is the last time you had fellowship around the Word of God with a fellow believer? We fellowship at church, to be sure, but what is the topic of our conversation? Do we enjoy the discussion of God's Word, or is it the latest gossip, sports score, weather, current event, doo-dad, or state of health? Why do we avoid the discussion of God's Word? Is it because we know so little of it? "This Book of the Law (God's Word) shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate Therein day and night, that



thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written Therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And These Words, Which I Command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach Them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of Them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind Them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates." If we meditated on God's Word day and night as Commanded, taught it to our children, and fellowshipped around it, we would naturally be thinking of it and it would influence and direct our every decision and action. As a child, I went to "Bible School" every Sunday night after church at someone's dining room table. I listened as Dad and the other men of the church fellowshipped around God's Word and discussed portions of Scripture in great animated detail. Perhaps our children would be more interested in God's Word if we exhibited a more lively interest in it. The Truth educates and liberates. "Ye shall know the Truth and the Truth Shall Make you Free." We have lost our passion for Truth. America has a church almost literally on every corner, but her "sheep" can find no pasture. We have forgotten how to prepare "home-cooked" meals. Truth has been sidelined in favor of popularity and prosperity. Honesty is a lost virtue. Integrity has morphed into situational ethics. Government is synonymous with greed and leadership with liars. Ask yourself this question. "Who do you really trust?" Then ask yourself, "Why is it so hard to find a trustworthy person?" Shouldn't "Christian" and "trustworthy" be synonymous? Perhaps if our minds were stayed on Truth instead of every passing event, we would be more worthy of trust. When is the last time you had true spiritual camaraderie with anyone? We are weak because we fight alone! Satan has successfully divided us with discord and pride. We fret with each other rather than fellowship. Love of God and His Word is the bond of perfection for the Body of Christ. If we love Him, we'll love what He Loves. "By this shall all men know that ye are My Disciples; that ye have love one for another."

The field is dry the grass is brown,
There is no pasture to be found,
The Truth ignored, somehow defaced,
The lost are starved for Saving Grace. –CGP

In an age of slippery deceit, we need to boldly offer sure footing, and stand fixed to the Rock of our Salvation to demonstrate that we have a Sure Foundation while others crumble. Satan has successfully silenced Truth with the lie of "political correctness," trying to redefine Truth to excuse evil. The souls of our posterity are at stake.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the Power of His Might. Put on the Whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the Whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Ephesians 6:10-13 KJV