**“Feeling Sorry” for the World- Compassion for Those in Darkness**

Prov.4:18-19; 13:15; 29:6 all highlight the difficulty, heartache, and treachery of walking in darkness (as opposed to the glory, favor, and joy of walking in the light). These things help to explain the *compassion* the Lord had for those who were *“like sheep without a shepherd.”*

Consider:

* **The difficulty of deciding “right” from “wrong” without the standard of God’s Word, Prov.12:15; 16:25; 21:2; Eph.4:25 – 5:17** (consider the difficult absurdity of having to decide for yourself {and your family} what is *right* and *wrong* about EVERYTHING without any concrete, foundational absolutes….everything is *relative-* what a nightmare!)
* **The hardship of marriage and family without “the manual,” Heb.13:4; Col.3:18-21; Eph.6:1-4; 1Thess.4:3-8** (having to wait to see what color diapers your child picks for themselves before giving them “girl” or “boy” name; trying to guide them through adolescence without them taking their own life; advising them on relationships, marriage, and children)
* **The futility seeking “fulfillment” in life from your work, Eph.6:5-9; Col.3:22-25; 1Cor.7:17,21-24** (the pressure to “choose a career path” while still in Junior High- let alone college; the constant competition to “succeed” and “get ahead,” and getting there only to find out that “fulfillment” is not found)
* **The hopelessness of having to live *only* “for the here and now,” 1Cor.15:19; 2Pet.2:1-2,10-19; Eph.2:12; 4:17-24** (the pressures of having to cram as much “living” as possible into life; the absolute loss of loved ones with no hope beyond the grave- for them or you; the absolute futility of life *“under the sun”* without the Son!)

**Conclusion: What a great and compassionate God we serve, and how blessed it is walk in His ways!**