

## REFLECTIONS

Thoughts on nature and the Christian faith - 5/7/18

"I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready."

- I Cor. 3:2



A small group of deer in an overgrown field allowed me to get close enough to photograph their feeding activities for quite some time. This one doe in particular seemed oblivious to my presence. She certainly knew I was there, but sometimes appetite supersedes fear. As I watched these deer feed, I was struck by how all animals seem to know what things will nourish them and what things will not. A mother of a nursing fawn, for example, will

only allow her fawn a limited time before she will put a stop to the milk and introduce her young to solid food. Some food is appropriate for infants, and other food is appropriate for adults. This is a fact that apparently some churches have chosen to ignore. Growth in the Christian faith involves delving into the weightier teachings of scripture. It involves wrestling with theology in order to mine the treasures God has placed there to bless us and to strengthen our faith. Unfortunately, in our day doctrine has almost become a dirty word. If we don't know what we believe, we will believe anything. But here is the catch, in order to digest solid food we must first be ready to receive it. There must first be a solid foundation upon which to build. And that foundation is the gospel. But the gospel which is fed to many in our churches is both shallow and distorted. The answer to the question of how a holy God can ever accept sinful man and still act justly is what the gospel explains. And until that answer is firmly and accurately fed to those in our churches, we will never be ready to mature in our faith. These deer will grow because they were prepared to digest solid food. Are you content with what are you being fed? Are you ready and willing to receive even more? Your growth as a Christian depends on it. - John