

# Second Hand Preacher

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

December 6, 2015

**Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11**

Sometimes we find it hard to express our love to those closest to us. Perhaps we use flowers or candy to show this. This time of year there is much advertising devoted to jewelry that is supposed to touch the heart. We are often told our actions speak louder than our words. Is there a place for words? I would like to think so. Loving words can link us to a truth that is even bigger than what we actually say. Words can put us out there and express how we feel. People like to hear the words of love.

St. Paul believed in the words of love. We can tell by this letter that he has a deep affection for the Christians in Philippi. This whole letter is like a deep thoughtful thank you note that holds an abundance of theological truth. Paul is grateful for the financial support the Philippians have offered him in the past. They were a major benefactor on his missionary journeys and have even supported him during his time of imprisonment. This passage was taken from the beginning of his letter. It is his pattern to show gratitude, but to the Philippians he seems extra grateful.

Paul packs this letter full of gems that we can use in our everyday life as disciples. We should pattern our gratefulness toward other believers in this way. Even if we never speak these actual words, we would hope our attitudes would be influenced by these beautiful words. We can even use them in our prayers for those we love. May Paul's genuine gratitude permeate how we live our lives.