

Second Hand Preacher

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 9, 2016

2 Timothy 2:8-13

Years ago, I took a trip to the western United States and I passed through Yellowstone National Park. I was able to witness “Old Faithful,” a geyser which erupted right when the ranger said it would. This natural phenomenon has been recorded as occurring since 1870, when the park was discovered. This geyser is the largest of the more consistent geysers. It erupts between 35 and 125 minutes. This consistency is something to behold. God provided the setting for this to work and it has remained faithful.

St. Paul wants to tell St. Timothy about the faithfulness of God. We may be unfaithful, but God remains faithful. Paul wants to inspire Timothy by telling him of his faithfulness. Paul has become imprisoned because of his faith in Jesus. This is where Paul writes the letter from. Scholars believe it was most likely written from Rome shortly before his death. Paul wants to preach the word to the best of his abilities. He will do it at all costs because he is consistent due to his great faith. Paul wants to leave that faith as a legacy to Timothy and his community.

Are we consistent when it comes to our faith? It is good to evaluate ourselves from time to time to see if we are living a life that is true to Jesus. We must examine our prayer life to see if it is regular. It is easy to fall into the trap of not wanting to spend time with God. Being faithful is not very easy because all Christians run into dry spells at times when it is hard for us to feel a God who doesn't appear to be there. This may be because God is more than a feeling. He is the creator of all feelings and he could easily overwhelm our tiny minds if we had direct access to our minds all the time. He is watching and waiting for us to seek him and strive to love him as much as he infinitely loves us. This is of course impossible, but we are called to love him with our whole beings and our neighbor as ourselves. When we can do this, we show our faith to the one who is eternally faithful.