

# Second Hand Preacher

*31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

October 30, 2016

## **2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2**

Remember back in high school when you wanted someone to sign your yearbook? They would offer a memory laced with some sort of sentimentality or humor. When someone I really admired signed mine, I would read it over a few times and try and soak in the meaning if the message was profound. I remember doing this type of writing on retreats for young people to boost their spirits or to really encourage them in the life of faith. I always hoped what I wrote made a difference.

St. Paul was the master at writing the meaningful. The way he opened this week's passage is remarkable. "We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose and every effort of faith, that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, in accord with the grace our God and Lord Jesus Christ." Like many Pauline sentences, it is long and packs much meaning into each word. Prayer is as important to Paul as it should be for all Christians. To be able to pray for one another is quite powerful. I love the way he expresses our worthiness being brought to fulfillment in Jesus. A hope that we can be filled with Jesus is certainly our hope. That we may be filled with him and he in us is almost more than anyone could wish for. Paul's community in Thessalonica wasn't perfect, but they were made worthy by the blood of the Lamb.

We are worthy, as well. Just as Paul praised the Thessalonians, we too should be praised because we belong to Jesus. By virtue of our baptism, we are children of God. We have a purpose. We are to spread the love of Jesus to all we encounter. We should always be an example; but if we are given holy boldness, we should share our story and listen to the stories of how Christ has impacted our lives. When we share our hope, we work to spread the gospel to all people.