

Second Hand Preacher

Christ the King

November 20, 2016

Colossians 1:12-20

Did you ever feel hopeless and needed someone or something to believe in? Hopefully a friend or family member could be that for you. People seeking recovery from addictions often join a support group like Alcoholics Anonymous and the group becomes what they believe in. All of us go through struggles and we keep searching for what might help. People of faith often have an advantage in this area. They can trust in God and enter into some kind of relationship with God. This can bring hope to the darkness. I think of this as our days become shorter and the winter weather starts in. If nothing on earth can seem to help us, then we need to trust in someone out of this world and can cling to the hope of God.

St. Paul wants this hope for the Colossians. He wants them to believe in Jesus who suffered and died for us. He gives us peace by the blood of the cross. Paul writes this community with the sole hope of strengthening their discipleship. There were many temptations yanking them away from the truth. The culture of that time was even worse than the culture of our time. People were more commonly losing their lives because of what they believed in. They dealt with Judaism that migrated to their town from Jerusalem. They dealt with the paganism from the Roman Empire. They believed in many gods. Both the Jews and the pagans thought they were right and probably put tremendous pressure on the Christians to change their beliefs. They were probably really excited when they were first baptized, but know they may struggle when faced with difficulties. Paul tries to point out that Jesus is the definitive answer to all the difficulties they faced.

Jesus is the answer for us as well. He is available in our daily lives whenever we need him. He gives us strength in good times and in bad. He is our savior and redeemer. I used to say to students in Confirmation, if they have a question to answer, the answer is probably Jesus. As we celebrate Christ the King, is Jesus the center of our lives.