

Second Hand Preacher

14th Sunday Ordinary Time

July 3, 2016

Galatians 6:14-18

“May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” This is a profound statement by St. Paul. He went from being a great persecutor of people following the way of Jesus to boasting of the glory of the cross. He was humbled by blindness when he had his conversion on the road to Damascus. He received revelation from Jesus and became an outstanding preacher of the faith. Paul witnesses to the great mystery of the cross. The suffering of Christ brought forth our redemption. So when we suffer, we can join our suffering to his. This suffering is our reason for boasting. We rejoice in our weakness as we try to live humble lives.

The cross is the same for us all. St. Paul talks about there not being a difference between the circumcised and the uncircumcised. This distinction between Jew and Gentile was a cause of concern for the early Church. Paul could speak of the desire for equality, as he was a Jew and he ministered to the Gentiles. He wants us to believe that God is bigger than any marking on our bodies. God sees the soul and treats us all with respect and calls us all to be faithful.

Like the Galatians, we are called to worship the one true God who redeems us. We all need to seek a close personal relationship with Jesus. In doing so, we can mold our lives after his. We should not despair in weakness, but know that we can be strong even when we are not getting our way. If we suffer in this life, we will have the opportunity to taste the goodness of the life to come. When we work together like the body of Christ, we find our strength in weakness. It is often personal tragedy that makes us stronger. We can be kinder, more thoughtful, and more united when we work together under the one cross of Jesus Christ.