

# Second Hand Preacher

*18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

July 31, 2016

**Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11**

When I was growing up I was fortunate to spend time with my Uncle Greg. He is mentally disabled, but we used to play with his toys that I thought were just awesome. At times my Dad and Grandpa farmed together, so this meant I got to work with Uncle Greg sometimes. Once we were out picking rocks. My Dad drove the tractor and my Uncle and I walked alongside picking up the rocks and throwing them in the bucket of the tractor. The day got warm and the rocks never seemed to end. At one point, my Uncle Greg stopped, looked up to the sky and proclaimed, "I don't see any more rocks." He chose to concentrate on what was above rather than what was below.

This is what St. Paul is asking of the Colossians. These Gentiles became Christian, and I'm sure there was much initial fervor. They had been baptized and I'm sure they were full of conviction. Time moves on and, like happens quite often, they drifted back to their old ways. Things in this world became more important again. Perhaps they started focusing on their possessions rather than being concerned about possessing life eternal. They had started to move God out and he was just waiting to be invited back in. God never forces himself upon us. He lets us make the first move and then he will rekindle the flame of the Holy Spirit deep within our hearts.

All of us are called to focus on what is above. We have the power to make earth like the kingdom of heaven. We are to treat each other with dignity and love. We are to focus more on people than on our possessions. We need possessions at times to carry out God's will. May we make our possessions a means rather than an end. Help us to build up the kingdom by putting God first.