

# Second Hand Preacher

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

February 5, 2017

## **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

In the course of my life, I have met many bright people. I think back to high school where there were a few guys who went on to college and landed great jobs. The various professors and students that were at the university, including many foreign students, would blow me away with all the things they knew. When I got to seminary, there were priests that were filled with wisdom and fellow seminarians who were so wise that they went on to accomplish much. Even though I would not call myself worldly wise, I tried to pick things up from many of them to be shaped into the person I am today.

St. Paul wants to warn the Christians in Corinth. Corinth was a port city and people from all over the world would stop by. The Greeks and Romans brought much wisdom with them. I'm sure this was quite appealing to some that had changed their life for Christ. Some of the wisdom was valuable, giving ways their lives could be better. Paul didn't want them to get too caught up in the worldly wisdom, but to rely on the wisdom of God. Jesus Christ clearly laid out some principles to live by and, at times, they were in direct contradiction with the ways of the world. He wanted them to make sacred scripture, his preaching, and the preaching of other disciples superior to the ways of the world. This was hard for many as they had to live and work in the world. Paul promised that the Lord would provide answers to their problems if they asked in prayer.

Two Thousand years later we are still wrestling with this. The Republicans and the Democrats both offer wisdom that we can use to live our lives. I try to take the best of both when I make decisions. I believe that I have a fairly well-informed conscience formed by the Church to influence these decisions. Each Sunday at Mass we have the opportunity when we recite the Creed to fill our hearts and minds with God's wisdom. This creed was formed for centuries by the Church, put forth for us to take stock in. Even though the Creed was written by human beings, this prayer was influenced by God, as much of it was taken from scripture and all of it was inspired by prayer and the working of the Holy Spirit. The teachings of Jesus should influence the way we vote, treat people, and the decisions we make for our families. We are all in the family of the Church and are called to live our faith.