

# Second Hand Preacher

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent*

March 26, 2017

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

In thinking about the weather, it seems like there have been many cloudy days in this early spring. Rain and the threat of rain make the days seem gloomy. This can affect our mood. Seasonal affective disorder is a real condition. Some people get very depressed when there is a lack of sunlight. Some people use light boxes to treat this disorder. Some people go to places like California or Arizona where there are typically more sunny days. Light seems to heal and make our days much brighter.

St. Paul has been to the sunny climate of Ephesus. The Christians there were greatly appreciative to him. This is a very positive letter needed to lift the spirits of the community. Living in the Gentile world can be difficult for a Christian. Their baptism calls them to a new life that is in the light of Christ. Paul wants the community to believe that Jesus is the light of the world. They live in a cold hearted and at times cruel world and it is their faith that has the power to save them. Paul reminds the Ephesians where they were and where they are now in their Christian journey. He wants them to believe they are going from darkness to light.

We are all on a Lenten journey. Lent can be dark as we face the sin in our lives. When we work for conversion at first there may be some dark times. We are asked to change our ways. This can be difficult. We can be lost in sin, but there is always hope when we make progression toward Jesus. That is why Lent leads us into the Triduum. We experience the Paschal mystery that leads us to the light of Easter. This reading gives us hope that the darkness can be overcome by the light of Christ.