August 28, 2019

Scripture

1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13
You recall, brothers and sisters, our toil and drudgery.
Working night and day in order not to burden any of you, we proclaimed to you the Gospel of God.
You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers.
As you know, we treated each one of you as a father treats his children, exhorting and encouraging you and insisting that you walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into his Kingdom and glory.
And for this reason we too give thanks to God unceasingly, that, in receiving the word of God from hearing us, you received it not as the word of men, but as it truly is, the word of God, which is now at work in you who believe.

Our Scripture Reflection
Please note: Paul was not a braggart. He wants the members of the Church at Thessalonica to know that he will do whatever it takes to win their hearts over to Jesus. Paul did it all, including suffer severe persecution for the sake of the Gospel. As the result of his sacrificial love, the Church grew and prospered in the way of Jesus.

Food for your Journey
“The difficult, we do immediately. The impossible takes a little longer.” A 1943 issue of Newsweek (March 8, 1943, 34) called it a “cocky slogan,” and perhaps it can be used in that way, but I find it oddly appropriate to what we are about as Christians. We have difficult tasks to do, and in the immediate future we work away at them, but there is also something about the Christian enterprise that seems well nigh to impossible, like the impossible dream of beating
swords into ploughshares! (Isaiah 2). It may not happen immediately! It make take a little longer, but that doesn’t keep us from working at it.

Worthwhile things often take a long time. Noah Webster, for example, worked on his dictionary for 36 years, crossing the ocean twice to collect material, before publishing it. Thomas Gray wrote “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard” 75 times before he was prepared to put his name to it.

Jesus himself seemed content to be obedient in his little corner of a nondescript region, and he left it to God to fit his efforts into the larger mosaic of redemption. What we are doing may take some time, but relax! Trust in God.

—Don Friesen,

**A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, I offer You my mind, my heart, my soul and my will this day. Use me as a witness to Your Son Jesus. As I live His Gospel may I give You glory and draw people to Your Son. Amen