



Daily Reflections

October 18, 2016

Scripture

2 Timothy 4: 7-10

Beloved:

Demas, enamored of the present world,
deserted me and went to Thessalonica,
Crescens to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.

Luke is the only one with me.

Get Mark and bring him with you,
for he is helpful to me in the ministry.

I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

When you come, bring the cloak I left with Carpus in Troas,
the papyrus rolls, and especially the parchments.

Alexander the coppersmith did me a great deal of harm;
the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.

You too be on guard against him,
for he has strongly resisted our preaching.

At my first defense no one appeared on my behalf,

but everyone deserted me.
May it not be held against them!
But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength,
so that through me the proclamation might be completed
and all the Gentiles might hear it.

Our Scripture Reflection

Life on the road was not always easy for Paul, the greatest missionary of all time. Quarrels, betrayals, heartbreak, persecution were all part of his work of proclaiming Christ. How did he do it? Paul remained completely focused on Jesus. Paul never forgot how Jesus had died for him and forgiven him of his former life. Paul wanted to show his gratitude by sharing Christ's Presence with all people, friend and foe.

Food for your Journey

Those who study the lives of the saints marvel at how vigorous and enduring was their faith, how they could count on it to bear them up through all sorts of desperate situations. What not so many realize is that giants of the faith are not born with such devotion. They develop their spirituality through training regimens as grueling as that of any Olympic athlete.

What sort of training is behind such a triumphant faith?

Worship. Yes, worship. Worship may seem to many to be a useless activity -- just as the endless miles of the runner, or the countless hours at the driving range for the golfer, or the buckets and buckets of tennis balls hit by the champion practicing a serve may appear to accomplish nothing for a considerable time. Yet, there can be no winning without that sort of training.

Why would we ever imagine faith would function any differently?

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You gave everything for me. Help me to show my gratitude by imitating You in all things. Amen.