

March 25, 2010

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:9-28

The first line of A Road Less Travelled by M. Scott Peck says, "Life is difficult."* It is true. Life is not easy sometimes. Every one of us faces challenges, obstacles, roadblocks, and valleys in the journey of life. Loved ones get sick, hurt, and die. Jobs come and go and financial status fluctuates. Relationships suffer and breakdown. Every one of us could make a list.

It is easy to feel sorry for ourselves when life is difficult. It usually seems that our problems are worse than every one else's. The problems of our day seem like the worst in human history.

So we turn to Scripture for comfort and hope. And in the words of Scripture we discover that we are not the only ones who've ever had a bad day (or month, or year.) When we read passages like the one in 1 Thessalonians, we are reminded that God is with us in the darkest days. The writers of the letter have first-hand experience that "life is difficult." (See 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2 and 3:1-5.) Yet they finish their letter with confidence and faith in God.

The message is clear: even in the midst of difficult days, God is with us. We can keep rejoicing and keep praying. We can encourage one another and be patient with one another. We can remain faithful and obedient.

Let the words of confidence in today's reading inspire you to be confident in your relationship with God. Let the difficult days of life be a reminder to rejoice in God's promises and pray without stopping. Let your difficult days be a reminder to help others in their difficult days. Not one of us is spared life's challenges. Be thankful that you are part of a loving, caring, and praying Christian family.

"Pray without ceasing."