

**Thoughts on the Daily Word**

*21<sup>st</sup> Week of Year. Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August. Readings: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Psalm: 138; Matthew 23:27-32.*

The readings today refer to the struggle of the early Church to find its way forward in the midst of tensions between its Jewish roots and the new gentile communities. A new synthesis was born of these tensions focused on the Spirit. Paul saw the Spirit as not distinct from the Law, or Scripture, but rather a fulfilment. This meant a relationship within the Body of Christ. Paul sees himself, and his companions, as fathering this new community of Christians. Later his writings, or those attributed to him, will describe this community as a body. This is not meant in a symbolic sense but a realistic sense. The Church is truly the Body of Christ. Relationship is not institutional but real in the same sense as the Eucharist. Truly and substantially, we are Christ's Body insofar as we live his life. Rule keeping, important as it may be, can become just how Matthew describes it, hypocritical. This means in the real sense of the term, acting, putting on a show. So different from a real and living relationship.