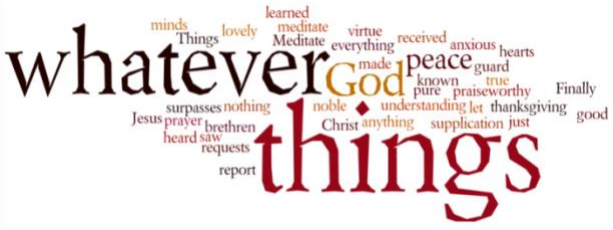

THINK ON THESE THINGS….. (our contributor this morning is Angela Jones)

Reading: 2 Corinthians 4: 7 - 10

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

Reflection:

Probably like me there are characters in the Bible who are your particular favourites and Paul is one of mine. I find the strength of his faith and his courage amazing. Knowing what was likely to happen to him he still journeyed to Rome to make his appeal to the emperor.

He did not have an easy journey to this place of strong faith however and in 2 Corinthians Ch 1 v8 we hear that Paul and his companions were “so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself”. Paul suffered beatings and lashings, a stoning, imprisonment, shipwreck, physical infirmity, and danger of all sorts from bandits and those Jews and Gentiles who opposed his message.

Hopefully we will not have to face those kinds of difficulties! However, what we go through in our lives and especially in these current times will test us and test our faith. We do not enjoy our difficulties but when we are through them can often realise what a valuable learning process they have been.

Like Paul we are strengthened by our trust in God and the belief that He has His hand on our lives. Hopefully one day we can look back on this time and discover the many things we have learnt and how we have supported and helped each other.

Breath prayer for today:

Heavenly Father, we pray that by the leading of the Holy Spirit we may find in the midst of our troubles your strength when ours runs out. Amen.