

**Our first reading is about an OT battle**

**The Israelite nation in battling the Amalekite people**

**Moses was the leader of the Israelite nation**

**Aaron was Moses brother**

**Standing with him when he confronted the Pharaoh**

**Joshua was his military leader**

**Hur was Caleb's son**

**In this battle the Israelites were out gunned**

**Out numbered**

**Out manned**

**Everything was against them**

**Except one**

**God would fight on their side**

**When Moses held the staff of God high**

**The same staff that he used to destroy the Pharaoh**

**The Israelites had the better of the battle**

**When he grew tired**

**His arms sinking to his side**

**The Amalekites would do better**

**Aaron and Hur come to his aid**

**They support him**

**Holding up his arms when he was too tired to go on**

**And Joshua mowed down Amalek and his people with his sword**

**St Paul knew Sacred Scripture**

**And in his letter to Timothy**

**He encouraged him to remember it as well**

**Paul is writing this letter from prison**

**Peter and most of the other apostles are dead or close to it**

**So Paul is wondering if this new faith will continue**

**Will belief in Christ continue to new generations?**

**St Paul knew the value of the OT**

**Even the difficult, violent teachings**

**When studied in the light of Christ**

**They are as valuable as a diamond**

**Even more so because they point us to eternity**

**The OT prepares us for and points us to the one who brings salvation**

**All of it is inspired by God**

**We need the correct way to interpret it**

**And that way is Jesus Christ**

**SS is the story of the history of salvation**

**How God prepared the world for His Son**

**How He worked directly and indirectly in their lives**

**To prepare us, for the moment we encounter Christ**

**His words to Timothy are his words to the Church**

**Remain faithful**

**Proclaim the Word**

**Be resolute**

**Correct those in error**

**Rebuke those that have gone astray**

**Encourage all**

**And do not be fainthearted**

**And in the Gospel we get a lesson how we are to do these things**

**Through perseverance**

**Even to the point of annoyance**

**The widow wants justice**

**But the judge is no friend**

**Perhaps he is even a friend of her enemy**

**So he ignores her request**

**Again and again**

**Until he is worn out**

**And gives her a just decision**

**Her perseverance wins the day**

**Perseverance in prayer is a necessary ingredient of prayer**

**It follows on the heels of the primary ingredient**

**Pray**

**Just do it**

**If we aren't praying, we can't persevere**

**If we don't give God time**

**We can't complain that we are not heard**

**Before we can offer great prayers**

**We need to pray**

**So how does this tie into mission Sunday?**

**We are in a battle**

**There is a spiritual war going on**

**We need to know this so we can join the battle**

**This is a key part of our mission**

**We are all on a mission**

**A mission of bringing the Gospel**

**Bringing the Good News to the world**

**It is not a Church that has a mission**

**It is a mission that has a Church**

**To accomplish this mission, we fight old warriors**

**The Amalekites were more than a people opposed to God**

**They represent all things that are opposed to God**

**They represent the evil that is in the world**

**That is why God instructed Joshua to mow them down**

**And why, in the next line of the text**

**A line we do not read today**

**It says God will fight the Amalekites from generation to generation**

**When we fight evil, God does not desire half way efforts**

**He doesn't want us to eliminate most of the sin in our lives**

**If a husband told his wife**

**I love you so much that I only cheat once a year**

**Is that love?**

**If you told your boss**

**I love this job and am so thankful**

**I only take an extra \$1000 when I really need it**

**Is that an honest person?**

**Can we justify even one case of child abuse?**

**Does that lead us to God?**

**If we are to be successful in our piece of the mission**

**So the mission will be a success**

**We need to strive to eliminate evil from our lives**

**All of it**

**To accomplish this mission, we need to pray**

**This is the primary way we influence our world**

**And if we get tired like Moses**

**We rely on the prayer of our brothers and sisters**

**We rely on the prayer and intercession of the saints in heaven**

**As Moses relied on Aaron and Hur**

**If we get stuck**

**There are things we can do**

**First, we have to see that we are giving God the best of ourselves**

**If we wait to pray at the end of the day**

**When we are tired and annoyed**

**Is that the best we can give God?**

**Or can we find a better time?**

**It has to become a priority**

**Something we take the time for**

**If we just wait to fit God in between the really important things**

**Give him a nod before nodding off ourselves**

**If this is our prayer**

**Is it really our first fruits?**

**Even if we give God prime time**

**We can find ourselves in a rut**

**If that is the case**

**Follow the advice of St Paul**

**Turn to Sacred Scripture**

**It will point us to the right path**

**It will point us to Christ**

**Lastly, we may think our prayers are not heard**

**So why bother?**

**Perseverance is Christ's answer to this**

**It may be that we will not see the answer we desire**

**But God does hear and answer**

**If perseverance can soften a human heart**

**How much more will it penetrate the Heart of love?**