

Daily Homily
Transverberation of St. Teresa of Avila
Carmelite Feast Day
Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time, Wednesday
26 August 2020
[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

You have to love St. Paul.

His conversion story, his shipwrecks, the many abuses he endured, the persecutions and hardships that found him, his is a heroic story. He never knew Jesus face to face, however, he followed Jesus into the darkest element of the human spirit so as to shine His light and life. Sometimes it was accepted and many times it was rejected. Regardless, he did it anyway.

Today, he gives practical instruction. Stay away from bad people. It is not a bad reminder. This is something that we all should have been told when sent on our way to kindergarten. This is something we probably should have learned the first time we discovered ourselves in any kind of trouble. Stay away from the bad influences, the ones who search out trouble, the ones who are a poor example. Stay away from them.

Paul then takes it a step further. Yes, stay away from bad influences but then, imitate us. He's talking about his traveling companions and himself. Unlike those bad influences who seem to suck the life out of a community, he and his companions are constantly contributing. They do not want the community to spoil them or treat them in any kind of honorary way. Paul says that they work for what they eat as they willingly bring the Gospel to the community as a service.

Stay away from bad influences, especially when it comes to those who are bad influences to us in the way of faith. Is there anyone you need to stay away from? Paul would encourage choose faith over them, choose Jesus over them. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No one else can offer this.

Who are the good influences in your life? Who are the ones who are trying to get you to heaven? Who are the ones who are not so much sucking the life out of you but actually contributing to your good and your well-being, who are breathing a spirit of faith and goodness into your soul?

Paul would say, "Stick with them."