

The Church and the Aroma of Christ

2 Corinthians 2:14-17

Christians are God's holy people (1 Pet. 2:9; Eph. 1:3-4) and as God's holy people we ought to live lives that are characterized and marked by holiness (Rom. 12:1-2; Matt. 5:16). Christians are supposed to look different and be different, but did you know that we're supposed to smell different?

1. _____ **the Church to** _____ **the Fragrance of Christ** (v. 14)

Paul begins in our passage on a seemingly happy note, but this isn't the mood of the apostle Paul in verse 14 at all. Prior to writing verse 14 Paul suffered tremendously and in various ways (2 Cor. 1:8-10, 2:1, 4, 12-13, 7:5). Even in the midst of all his suffering Paul was still able to say, "But thanks be to God" (v. 14). How is that possible? Paul knew that God had a purpose behind all of his suffering which included preparing him to spread the gospel (Rom. 5:2-5, 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:17-18, 2:14). Has it ever occurred to you that the LORD places you in the trials so that He could strengthen your faith and encourage you in order to equip you to spread His Gospel?

2. _____ **of the Church is to** _____ **the Fragrance of Christ** (v. 15-17)

Does the scent of your life smell like Christ and the Gospel? The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is sent out by God with a mission to spread the sweet fragrance of Christ by preaching His Gospel (2 Cor. 3:4-6, 4:1, 5-6, 5:18-20). God's calling upon the Christian's life is to simply spread the fragrance of the gospel, not to convert the heart of man for that is the work of God the Spirit (1 Cor. 3:6-7). To participate in God's kingdom work is a blessing and no one is adequate or sufficient for this task (v. 17), but God commissions His Church to carry out this awesome responsibility (Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Cor. 1:28-29).
