

Sweet Smell Of Jesus

5-3-26

2Corinthians 2:14 (AMP)

But thanks be to God, Who in Christ always leads us in triumph as trophies of Christ's victory and through us spreads *and* makes evident the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere.

This morning we are going to focus what God sees when HE looks at you and me. I use the Amplified Version of the Bible, because of its amplification of God's view of us in this verse. In Chapter 1, we learned that once we trusted Jesus, God established us, anointed us, sealed us, and gave us the Holy Spirit. Now that we are HIS people, HIS possession, God leads us in triumph as trophies the sweet smell of Jesus' victory. God clearly states why HE leads us in triumph as HIS trophies.

2Corinthians 2:15 (NIV)

For we are to God the pleasing AROMA OF CHRIST.

We smell like Jesus. God is pleased. We are the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved AND those who are perishing.

Different reactions, but everyone smells us!

2Corinthians 2:16 (NIV)

To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?

Personally, I can't get my arms around this, but God tell us this is how HE works. God uses us to impact everyone we encounter. The sweet smell of Jesus covers us. For some people that sweet smell of Jesus will remind them that living independent of God brings death. To some people that sweet smell of Jesus will penetrate their heart bringing them to eternal life. When God looks down from heaven, this is how HE views the world. Therefore, the last sentence of this verse is appropriate. "And who is equal to such a task?" Good question. Why did Jesus choose us?
1 Corinthians 1:26 (ESV)

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

All who call upon Jesus will be saved. Evidently, HIS priority is not the wise and powerful.

Why would God choose regular people like me and you to show us off as trophies in triumphal procession?

1 Corinthians 1:27–29 (ESV)

²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

God doesn't want any boasting. Therefore, God chose us to show off HIS work, HIS power:

- Chose the foolish to shame the wise
- Chose the weak to shame the strong
- Chose the despised to bring others to nothing
- Chose us so that no human being could boast in the presence of God.

1 Corinthians 1:31 (ESV)

So that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

God wants people that trust solely in HIM and HIM alone. People relying on HIS power.

We are for God's glory, trophies of Christ's great work on the cross. God shows us off to the world.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (ESV)

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

God doesn't want HIS people to boast about anyone else, or depend on anything else, or covet any of the world's pleasures, because God is our all in all, our Savior, our provider, our reason for existence.

1 Corinthians 3:21–23 (ESV)

²¹ So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, ²² ... the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ²³ and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

In Phil. 4:19, God boldly says to HIS people:

My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

As God's people, HIS trophy, Keep it simple!

1 Corinthians 2:2 (ESV)

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.