the aroma of CHRIST
2 Corinthians 2:14–17
Familiar Aromas

• Certain smells remind us of specific things. For some, the smell of *homemade apple pie* means they’re entering *Mom’s Kitchen.*
Familiar Aromas

• For others the smell of *Hot buttered Popcorn* makes them think of a *Movie Theatre*. 
Less Attractive Aromas

• There are less attractive smells as well; sad and even disturbing smells as well.

• The San Jose Mercury News reported a while back about “an incredibly foul stench from long-forgotten lunches that forced hundreds of people out of a California office complex.”
Less Attractive Aromas

• The article said that *Fire crews* and even a *Hazmat team* had to be dispatched to the building and that *28 people were treated for vomiting and nausea*. A San Jose emergency workers traced the smell to a room where a worker—who *lost her sense of smell* after nasal surgery—was using *a combination of chemicals to clean rotten food out of a fridge.*

*San Jose Mercury News*
Now that I’ve thoroughly grossed you out, let me ask you a serious question.

How do you smell?
Do You Smell Like Jesus?

• *I’m not talking about your hygiene tonight, but your “fragrance” as a Christian.*

• *Do you smell like Jesus or like the world?*
Do You Smell Like Jesus?

• According to Scripture we take on the smell or fragrance of the people and places we frequent.
2 Cor. 2:14-16

- My Bible says in 2 Cor. 2:14-16 - “14 [But] thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. For we are a fragrance of Christ (aroma) to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; 16 to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life.”
2 Cor. 2:14-16

• The message is that we have [or should have] a particular **effect** on people. When they are with us, they should **smell traces of the Savior**. They should **smell His goodness and His grace and identify it with our Jesus**.

*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.* (Acts 4:13)
In Contrast to the World

• The Bible describes our “aroma” as a good thing, *in contrast to the smells of the world.*
• It is an aroma of the “*Knowledge of Christ.*”
• It is an aroma of a knowledge of and a *familiarity with the Savior and His Teachings.*

...He uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Jesus everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ...
2 Corinthians 2:14-15
Gen. 8:20-21

• The history behind this verse is found in various *Old Testament Passages*.

• Passages such as **Gen 8:20-21** – “Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal & of every clean bird & **offered burnt offerings on the altar**.”
And **the LORD smelled the soothing aroma**; and the LORD said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done."
Ezek. 20:40-42

- Ezek 20:40-42 - "For on My Holy Mountain, on the high mountain of Israel," declares the Lord GOD, "there the whole house of Israel, all of them, will serve Me in the land; there I shall accept them, and there I shall seek your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your holy things. 41 "As a soothing aroma I shall accept you, 
when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered; and I shall prove Myself Holy among you in the sight of the nations. 42 "And you will know that I am the LORD, when I bring you into the land of Israel, into the land which I swore to give to your forefathers. "
Ex. 30:34-38

Ex. 30:34-38 – “Then the LORD said to Moses, “Take for yourself spices, stacte (the finest myrrh); and onycha (an odoriferous shell); and galbanum (gum resin from a flowering plant); spices with pure frankincense; there shall be an equal part of each. 35 With it you shall make incense, a perfume, the work of a perfumer, salted, pure, and Holy. 36 You shall beat some of it very fine, and put part of it before the testimony in the tent of meeting where I will meet with you; it shall be most Holy to you.
Ex. 30:34-38

37 The incense which you shall make, you shall not make in the same proportions for yourselves; it shall be Holy to you for the LORD. 38 Whoever shall make any like it, to use as perfume, shall be cut off from his people.”
Sweet Aromas

• Main Point = These were “sweet aromas” to God because they fulfilled His commands.

• We are to be sweet aromas for God and fulfill His commands.
Sweet Aromas?

• *His church is to be* such a place.
• *You ever entered a room (or a church building) and found yourself quoting Shakespeare’s Hamlet*

   “*Something is rotten in the state of Denmark,*” meaning, *this just isn’t right?”*
An Aroma for Life

• It’s *God’s intention* that we as individuals and as His church give off a “*Sweet saving aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place,*” (2:14)

• And today’s passage actually describes the life of the Christian as an “*aroma*” either *for life or for death.* (*Life* for those who react positively to the knowledge we share and *death* to those who reject it.)
Visitors?

• The aroma we leave has a great deal to do with the overall effectiveness of our outreach.

• *I wonder what types of smells our morning guests remember tonight?*

*you smell good*
A Positive Aroma

• Hopefully it was and is *an Aroma for Christ, a positive life-giving one*. One that lingers and that will provide us with a *welcome* response as we *follow up* on these people offering them a *deeper knowledge of Jesus*. 
Smells are Impactful

• *Smells can and do change things.*
• *In San Jose the bad smell caused a forced evacuation of an entire work complex.*
At Calvary

- But at *Calvary, Christ’s Aroma* created an opportunity for our *salvation*. And when we carry that scent into the world, the world too can respond to *the fragrant promise of Grace and Mercy*...
In Eph 5:1-2, Paul wrote- “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; (a great and wonderful ambition) and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.”
Pleasing to God

• Again the message is for us to be pleasing to God even as Christ was pleasing to God.
• How?
• By submitting to the Will of God.
• By offering up His life to God in service (as a sweet a aroma)
Service to God

• *You* can be of *service to God*.
• *You* are *serving God* when you *share His love* with *a lost and dying world*.
Satan’s Stench

- Satan’s sulfuric smell has just about permeated this planet.

- His negative stench has been attached to so many things.

SATAN’S BIG LIE:
"Sin will make you happy, and there are no bad consequences."
Satan’s Stench

• He has dirtied the beauty of sexuality, selling it as smut.

• He has perverted the name of Christ, turning it into a curse.

• He has confused and distorted the right view of just about every good thing...
A Better Fragrance

- But we as Christian’s – can introduce or reintroduce the sweet aroma of Christ into the air. When people smell a choice; they will evacuate ASAP to a better more fragrant environment.
Christian “Doer”

• That was Paul’s ambition. He knew Satan’s foul smell of death and decay back when he was a violent aggressor, and a church persecutor. *It was all over him then...*

• But in 2 Cor. 2; he is *a new man*; he has been washed clean at Baptism, he has become *a walking bottle of Christian perfume*; not Christian Dior, but Christian “*Doer*.”
The Aromatic Life

• And the life that he now lives in the flesh, he lives by faith in the Son of God who gave Himself for Paul’s and for your salvation (Gal. 2:20).

• He is now living the aromatic life of a saint.

• How about you?
The Aromatic Life

• **God** through Paul is calling us to *convey* along with *the scent of knowledge; the positive scent of selfless love* - Lk. 6:35

• And the gracious scents of *compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience* - Col. 3:12
How Do You Smell?

• You know, it is *entirely possible* to live with an *unpleasant smell* for so long that you *don’t even notice it*.

• It is *entirely possible* for some folks to be *completely insensitive or incapable* of distinguishing between pleasant and unpleasant smells *like the lady in San Jose*. 
An Alternate Aroma

• That is why we, as Christ’s people, need to offer a faithful alternative.

• The world is saturated with the disturbing and destructive smells of Satan and sin;

• It is for us to introduce a faithful alternative to his miserable stench.

• It is for us to offer them the sweet smell of Spiritual success, the aroma of Christ in their lives and ours.
Home and Welcome

• Some smells remind us of *home*.
• Others, of places we also feel *welcome*.
• It is God’s plan that His church provide *both*; the smell of “*home*” to His Saints, and the smell of “*welcome*” to our visitors.
Are You Consistent?

• And speaking of settings, you know your aroma is supposed to be consistent at church and at work.

• For some their church life seems sweet enough at services, but they stink of the world at work.

• We are to share one consistent aroma. The Aroma of Christ. The Aroma of Life.
How Do You Smell Tonight?

• If you don’t mind me asking:
  • How do you smell to you tonight?
  • Are you a fragrance of life, or of death?
  • Do your words and example attract men to Christ or repulse them?
Every Place, Every Day?

• Are you giving off the “sweet saving aroma of the knowledge of Him in everywhere, everyday in every place?”

• It all depends on how close you are to the Lord tonight! Doesn’t it.
The Aroma of Christ?

• *Tonight* is the night to begin “*smelling*” like Christ!

• *Never* washed? *Be Baptized* tonight.

• *Washed* but *polluted* again by the world? *Repent* tonight.
Christ or the World?

- When people leave your presence do they leave thinking of Christ or the world?