

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Teaching Ministry

9.29.2024

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

Spiritual Senses, The Sense of Smell

## 2 Corinthians 2: 14 – 17

It is our senses that draw our focus, and our attentiveness to all that life is. They invite us to live our life to the fullest, as they help us to see the authentic reality of every moment that we live. As we breathe in, it awakens us to images and sensations, that are never-ending aromas, which allow us to become alive to ourselves, and it also allows us to become more alive to that which surrounds us, which broadens our depth of perception. Now, the sense of smell is something that either quickly attracts us to something, or it repels us away. As believers, we long to know of, and to belong to God, and we experience this attraction through the Holy Spirit as if it were a delightful fragrance arising from within us, and around us. And just like the aromas that are pleasurable to our physical sense of smell, we are attracted to our inner experience of grace, which comes from the center of our being.

**Ephesians 5: 2,....**walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour....

Christ, who took upon himself the sin of the world, was the perfect picture of a free will sacrifice of voluntary love, an offering that brought forth a sweet-smelling savour, that found favour in the eyes of God. Therefore, since he gave his life as a ransom, so that by faith in him we might be united with him in spirit and in truth, for he demonstrated his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, he died for us. Therefore, we are called to walk in Christ love, just as he walked in the Fathers love, and we are to present our own bodies as a living sacrifice, so that we might become a sweet-smelling savour unto the Lord. It is only after the sin offering was made that the offering of a sweet-smelling savour was made. Our offering of a sweet-smelling savour to God is our devotion unto him.

**Psalm 16: 8,....**I have set the Lord always before me, because he is my right hand, I shall not be moved....

Our devotion to God identifies us with God in that we are confident and unafraid of what man can do unto us, which expresses our trust in God. Now, some may interpret this to refer to an anticipated life of persecution, sufferings, and difficulties, but it goes much further than that, because persecution, suffering, and difficulties, are just an expected part of our life in Christ. Our confidence and trust are to rest in the fulness of the power of God, and our faith is to be that of the demonstrated victory of Christ on the cross. As believers, we should not replace God with other objects of faith and trust, for he is the one who holds the world in his hands. Mankind was designed, and created to rely upon God, and when we replace him with somethings else, then there are unavoidable consequences. Those who place their faith and trust in God, regardless of the circumstances, are secure in him, both in this present world, and for eternity to come.

**2 Corinthians 2: 14 – 17,....**thanks be to God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of knowledge, by us in every place....for we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in they that are saved, and in them that perish, to the one we are the savour of death unto death, and to the other the savour of life unto life....and who is sufficient for these things....for, we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God, but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the spirit of God speak we Christ....

God uses the believer to spread the sweet-smelling savour of his knowledge everywhere that we go. Which means that we spread the truth of the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ along every pathway in which he leads us, anything less than the truth of his gospel would result in the sinful stench of worldliness. By prayer, and through the truth of his word, with joy and thanksgiving, mankind will see through us, as believers, that Gods promises are true, that his grace is sufficient, and that all things work together for good to those who love the Lord their God, and by this are we truly able to experience our life in Christ. In this, as we spread the glorious gospel of Christ, it becomes the blessed consequence of a life that is consecrated unto God, an aroma that is pleasant to our spiritual life in Christ.

Now, let's move on to verse 15:

**2 Corinthians 2: 15,....**for we are unto God a sweet smelling savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish....

Believers are the aroma of Christ in this world, because the believer makes Christ presence on this earth known, for he is living within us. This means that everywhere that he leads us, believers give off the sweet-smelling savour of fellowship, not just to other believers, but also unto the non-believer alike. Now, make no mistake that our aroma will be received differently, depending upon our attitude, for others can detect the lack of faith in our life in Christ. Therefore, the word of God describes two different types of aromas, it is either as sweet fragrance that extends from a committed life of grace through faith in Christ, or it is a nauseating stench of a person's worldly, sinfulness. The latter is described by Isaiah:

**Isaiah 65: 3 – 5,....**a people that provoketh me to anger....which say, stand by thyself, come not near to me, for I am holier than thou....these people are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all day....

The former describes Christlike characteristics as giving off a beautiful fragrance of Christ love and compassion, a sweet aroma that is well pleasing unto God. A believer that is growing in grace, standing firm in their faith, abiding in Christ, and submitted to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, are those who are obedient to the truth of God's word.

**Psalms 141: 2,....**let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice....

The desires of our prayer life is that our prayers are well pleasing unto God, a humble sacrifice of offering, of praise, and of petition, that which is holy and acceptable unto God. Our thoughts are always toward the Lord, which means that we have cast down everything that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and have brought every thought into the obedience of Christ. Our entire life in Christ should be a beautiful aroma that is well pleasing unto God, and one that find favor with God and with man.

**Philippians 4: 18,....**I have all, and abound, I am full....an odor of sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing unto God....

As believers, we are not of our own ability, for it is God who called us to be ambassadors for him, he chose us. By accepting him through faith believing in his Son Christ Jesus he begins, through his spirit, to lead and direct our steps, and changes us into the image of Christ, this now releases the aroma of Christ through us. So, ask yourselves this question, what do I smell like? Now, if we were speaking physically, and you answered I smell bad, then you would probably be sitting alone. So, how do I smell spiritually? Deodorant, perfume, and cologne is not going to do it for us, or cover it up, for this spiritual fragrance only comes as a free gift from God. Therefore, the more graciously we receive, the better we smell, and the closer our relationship is with God, the greater the sweet-smelling savour is that goes up to God. Let us ask ourselves, are we a sacrifice, acceptable, well pleasing unto God? A sweet-smelling savour unto him.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

*Tim Hughes*

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowowlfarm.com/>

