

Intro: Missio Dei

Review images and Circle of Comfort.

Something more, though. Not only taking our bad experiences and using them for good, but a life that begins to smell like Christ.

2:14a Image of conquering army, paraded by Christ through the streets of the world. Christ the conquering general, parading his captives.

“The idea is borrowed from an ancient Roman triumph, which to the eyes of the world of that day was the most glorious spectacle which the imagination could conceive.” (Meyer)

“In a Triumph the procession of the victorious general marched through the streets of Rome to the Capitol . . . First came the state officials and the senate. Then came the trumpeters. Then were carried the spoils taken from the conquered land . . . Then came the pictures of the conquered land and models of conquered citadels and ships. There followed the white bull for sacrifice which would be made. Then there walked the captive princes, leaders and generals in chains, shortly to be flung into prison and in all probability almost immediately to be executed. Then came the lictors bearing their rods, followed by the musicians with their lyres; then the priests swinging their censers with the sweet-smelling incense burning in them. After that came the general himself . . . finally came the army wearing all their decorations and shouting *Io triumphe!* Their cry of triumph. As the procession moved through the streets, all decorated and garlanded, amid the cheering crowds, it made a tremendous day which might happen only once in a lifetime.” (Barclay)

“That is the picture that is in Paul’s mind. He sees Christ marching in triumph throughout the world, and himself in that conquering train. It is a triumph which, Paul is certain, nothing can stop.” (Barclay)

2:14b Used to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere

“No sense remains in the memory like scent. There is nothing we remember more strongly than pleasant smells, except perhaps unpleasant smells. “Thus the apostle

wished that his life might be a sweet perfume, floating on the air, reminding me, and above all reminding God, of Christ.” (Meyer)

“A sweet savour of Christ! It does not consist so much in what we do, but in our manner of doing it; not so much in our words or deeds, as in an indefinable sweetness, tenderness, courtesy, unselfishness, and desire to please others to their edification. It is the breath and fragrance of a life hidden with Christ in God, and deriving its aroma from fellowship with Him. Wrap the habits of your soul in the sweet lavender of your Lord’s character.” (Meyer)

The divine fragrance – smells like Christ. Smells to high heaven ☺

Not to neutralize or remove the odor, but to make sure it’s really a Christ smell. (odor neutralizer – smells?)

“There’s Something different about these people”

2:15-16a The differing perception of the perfume – life and death

“In the same way, the message of the gospel is a message of life to some and a message of condemnation to those who reject it (John 3:17-21). “The same happens to the present day to those who receive and to those who reject the Gospel: it is the *means* of *salvation* to the former, it is the means of *destruction* to the latter; for they are not only *not saved* because they do not believe the Gospel, but they are *condemned* because they *reject* it.” (Clarke)

The perception seems to be based on the smell and the one smelling – not on us (again, as long as it really is the smell of Christ)

2:16b Our inadequacy – it’s not about us, but Christ.

- 2 Cor. Emphasizes the weakness, frailty, fallibility of the gospel communicator, while reminding us of the awesomeness of the gospel.

2:17 Our motives greatly affect our smell.

- Refuse any form of manipulation, while faithfully carrying out our task.

The idea of adulterating or watering down for gain. Not to do that, not to profit from it, not to use the gospel to manipulate, or manipulate for the gospel. No hidden motives, no hidden agendas.

Today, mostly about the what and the why – not much about the how. The entire NT, especially the gospels, describe the smell of Christ. The LGs should talk about the how this week.