

## The Fragrance of the Gospel

Second Corinthians 2:12-17

### I. Two metaphors to describe the life of faith

A. The splendor of a post-victory Roman \_\_\_\_\_

The picture: though once God's enemies, we have been taken \_\_\_\_\_ by Christ

The role of those led was to highlight the glory of the one who conquered them

"\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ" ("bond-servant) was Paul's most common self-description

We see – over and over – this God's-power-in-our-\_\_\_\_\_ theme

B. Fragrance – the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ

1. This fragrance is primarily the Gospel we share--the fragrance of Christ

We are the \_\_\_\_\_ though which the fragrance is released

2. "Fragrance" has implications for our lives as well

The analogy is taken from \_\_\_\_\_ in Leviticus--"A pleasing aroma to the Lord"

"Present your bodies as a \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifice" [Romans 12:1]

### II. The parade is about the \_\_\_\_\_ – the King

Gospel paradox: His victory was won through His own death

A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Paul's message

"Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ"

B. Paul's life \_\_\_\_\_ his message

### III. Rich implications for \_\_\_\_\_

A. The message is what matters most

B. It is \_\_\_\_\_ who opens doors and hearts

"A door was opened for me in the Lord at Troas" [12b]

"Pray for us, that God may open to us a door for the word" [Colossians 4:3]

C. We \_\_\_\_\_ and walk through God's open doors

"Where there is weakness, my power is shown the more completely."

"Our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient..." [II Cor. 3:5b-6a]

D. We never need to \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel

Repackage or edit it – push ourselves forward--\_\_\_\_\_ others

1. We speak "in the sight of God" – before an \_\_\_\_\_

2. We speak with \_\_\_\_\_

3. Commissioned by God, we speak in Jesus' name

E. We spread and scatter and \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel

We plant and water, but God gives the \_\_\_\_\_ [First Corinthians 3:6]

F. Our lives are a fragrance as well

G. Implications for our collective life – our \_\_\_\_\_

In every way we \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel [Titus 2:10]

Grace is cultivated – it is an \_\_\_\_\_