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## Sweet Fragrance

**II Corinthians 2:12-17** <sup>12</sup>Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and a door stood open for me in the Lord, <sup>13</sup>I had no peace in my spirit, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said goodbye to them and went on to Macedonia. <sup>14</sup>But thanks be to God, who always leads us triumphantly as captives in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. <sup>15</sup>For we are to God the sweet aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. <sup>16</sup>To the one, we are an odor of death and demise; to the other, a fragrance that brings life. And who is qualified for such a task? <sup>17</sup>For we are not like so many others, who peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as men sent from God. (BSB)

### I. What can we learn from this passage?

- A. Paul's **love** was so great for the Corinthians that when Titus, someone who was supposed to be there to let Paul know what was happening in Corinth, was not in Troas he was unable to function in Troas. V. 12-13
- B. Paul was **comforted** by the fact that ultimately the victory is ours! V. 14
- C. Our knowledge of who Christ is and what He has done is **equated** with a sweet fragrance. V. 14
- D. Even God smells a **sweet** aroma when He sees us working in the world. V. 15
- E. Those around us will have **mixed** experiences when they deal with us. V. 16
- F. We must acknowledge that we have a **difficult** task in this world. V. 17
- G. We must resist the **temptation** to make our ministry about money. We serve an audience of One and that needs to be our motivation for our ministry. V. 17

### II. How can we apply these truths to our life?

- A. We need to hold other Christians and their spiritual health in a high **priority**. Our own financial well being has got to take a back seat to Kingdom building.
- B. When we get down the best way up is through **praise**!
- C. We need to see us the way that **God** sees us.
- D. We need to reprioritize and make **preaching** the Gospel a priority.
- E. We cannot let circumstances hold us back from our **mission**.
- F. We must be able to do the right **thing** for the right **reason** because we will have to give an account someday.