

Jesus is: Fragrant (Aromatic)

2Cor.2:14-17

3-24-2019

*2Cor.2:15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 16 to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.*

We live in a world full of delightful smells. We also live in a world full of foul smells. The business of making good smells to cover up bad smells is huge and incredible ancient. Gen.8:20-22 records the oldest record of a pleasing aroma. I am sure that aromas, fragrances and smells of all kind existed prior to this event but this one is recorded for our benefit.

Interestingly it has to do with forgiveness of sins and sacrifice. Several other early references to smell are found in Gen.27:27 and Ex.5:21. After this countless references having to do with the aroma of the sacrifice or the sweet smell of incense and the fragrance of the ingredients in anointing oil are found and referred to as the work of a perfumer. (Ex.30:22-25 (an apothecary)

When Paul says that we are the aroma of Christ what does He mean? (Read 2Cor.2:14-17) Paul can at times speak of things that are deep. (2Pt.3:16) God has often times used one thing to explain another. Jesus too did this when He spoke in parables. Did

God like the smell of burning meat or did He find it pleasing that people were seeking forgiveness?

We too use language in similar ways. When someone says or does something we don't like we might say: "it left a bad taste in our mouth" or "something doesn't smell right about this" We sometimes (rarely) might turn poetic and say someone's presence smells like spring.

So how is a person "the aroma of Christ"? Paul is making reference to himself and others who proclaim the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb that all sacrifices pointed to. The news about salvation that when received brings life and forgiveness thru Jesus' sacrifice of Himself, that is the pleasant aroma.

Everyone who puts on Jesus Christ in Baptism and proclaims Him as Lord and Savior is putting on and spreading the aroma of Jesus. Interestingly enough Paul says that to some this smell is delightful and to others it is offensive. (2Cor.2:15-16) Are you responsible for how a person reacts to the smell of Christ Jesus? No! You are responsible to God as the message. (2Cor.2:14) As God leads you in triumphal procession as you spread the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere. Go, make a big stink! (Mat.28:18-20)

The aroma is the result of forgiveness of sins. The true stench is the smell of death because of sin.