

## Sermon Notes | 2 Corinthians 2:12-17

### Introduction (v. 12-13)

<sup>12</sup>When I came to **Troas** to **preach** the **gospel** of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, <sup>13</sup>my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia.

A. The Christian is a captive and a conqueror

2 Corinthians 2 <sup>14</sup> But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.

### 1. Captives

"... apostles, like men **sentenced to death**..." (1 Corinthians 4:9)

"**I am crucified** with Christ, therefore, I no longer live; Jesus Christ now lives in me..." (Galatians 2:20)

### 2. Conquerors

**1. Power over everything**- "...**we are** more than **conquerors**...[nothing] can separate us..." (Romans 8:37)

**2. Power over sin**- "**waging war** against me...**deliver** me?" (Romans 7:23-24)

**3. Power over death**- "O death where is your sting...thanks be to God...**victory**..." (1 Cor. 15:55-57)

**4. Power over Satan**- "...disarmed principalities and powers, **triumphing** over them." (Colossians 2:15)

**5. Power over the world**- "born of God...overcomes the world, and this is the **victory**...faith..." (1 John 5:4-5)

B. The Christian life is both attractive and off-putting

2 Corinthians 1 <sup>15</sup> For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, <sup>16</sup> to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?

### What is this aroma?

"... as a burnt offering...a **pleasing aroma** to the LORD." (Leviticus 1:9)

"... as Christ loved us, ...a **fragrant offering** and sacrifice to God." (Ephesians 5:2)

"...as a **living sacrifice**...to God." (Romans 12:1)

C. The Christian message is sufficient

2 Corinthians 2 <sup>16b</sup> ...Who is sufficient for these things? <sup>17</sup> For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

**Big Idea:** God wants you to be smelly

## Discussion Questions | 2 Corinthians 2:12-17

- What did God speak to you this weekend?

Read 2 Corinthians 2:12-17

- Paul describes himself as a conquered man led by Jesus. What does it mean to be conquered by Christ?
- What areas of your life have you struggled to let Jesus conquer?
- Paul says that we are the aroma of Christ: attractive to some and off-putting to others. How have you seen people respond to your Christian life and message?
- Why do we feel pressure at times to tone down our faith or make the gospel seem more attractive so it is less off-putting to non-Christians?
- In what ways is God challenging you to be more "smelly"?