

This week...

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 2:14-4:6

**Monday** 2 Corinthians 2:14 “*But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.*”

What may we learn from this verse about the transformational nature of ministry (service)? Carefully note God’s part and the believer’s part in what is described here. Spend some time praying about how God is using or will use you to “*spread everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him*”.

**Tuesday** 2 Corinthians 2:15-16 “*For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task?*”

Consider carefully the thought that Christ-followers are the “*aroma, fragrance, or smell of Christ*”. How can the same fragrance be the fragrance of life to one and the smell of death to another? Can you relate this to 1 Corinthians 1:23-24 where Paul states that preaching Christ crucified is “*a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles*”, but to those whom God has called the same message is “*Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God*”? How do you “smell” to God and others?

**Wednesday** 2 Corinthians 2:17 “*Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in*

*Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.*”

Have you ever known anyone who was caught up by preachers who peddled the word of God for profit? What are some warning signs of these kinds of false teachers? How would you advise someone to best prepare themselves in defense of this sort of deception? See chapters 8 and 13 of Acts for two early New Testament examples of this.

**Thursday** 2 Corinthians 3:2-3 “*You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*”

What we print on the hearts and minds of others is not insignificant. We may be the only Bible that some people ever read. What sort of message are you offering? Think about how important and amazing it is that the message you have imprinted on another is read by everyone who comes into contact with your “letter”.

**Friday** 2 Corinthians 4:5-6 “*For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*”

Pray about what you are communicating to others. Do they genuinely learn of Jesus as Lord of your life and you His servant, or are they only seeing you as your own master?