

11 Corinthians 2:12-17 Nose- Blind 11/9/2025

Intro: Trip to a men's retreat. Packwood, Washington. 14 guys. 7 days without a bath. We all got used to each other's smell. When we finished and stopped at a restaurant to eat; people knew we stunk! The clean people's look made it evident to us!

They say the sense of smell works the best at bringing back memories! Better than other sensory experience.

Question: What are some of those smells that bring back good memories?

What smells bring back bad memories?

Paul wants them to know how much was sacrificed for them to receive the gospel, unlike the false teachers who sacrificed nothing, but wanted the respect that the Apostles had.

Text: 2:12-17 *****

2:12- "Titus my brother." Such affection is created by the Holy Spirit, when you are working with tried and true people on the most vital mission the world has ever known!

Questions: If you are exactly on mission will not God make it easy? **No. It is a war!**

Will he make it succeed? **Yes.**

The thing about Titus and his good report on the Corinthians? How did it end? 11 Cor. 7:4-7, 13-16 (Will detail this when we get there in the future, God willing.)

So, in praise to God about how well the Corinthians reacted to the rebuke Paul had send to them in a letter, he reflects on how good things smell!

Main thing today: How do you smell?

Most of the time we go nose-blind to our smell and have to be told by some brave friend, (or a restaurant full of people who are repulsed by the smell, lol.)

Paul gives an illustration from a **Roman Triumph Procession.**

Plutarch- 46-120 A.D. – Greek philosopher and biographer- "Incense burning in pagan temples could be smelled everywhere; flowers cast on the ground everywhere."

It ran from the city gate to the capital, then to most of the public places.

Order of the March: Decorated oxen to be sacrificed. Then a parade of the spoils of war, then captives in chains, then musicians and dancers, then people carrying perfume or incense, then senators, counselors, and then the army. Sometimes arranged differently.

Point: To the victors the smell was sweet, but to the captives it smelled of their coming deaths in the glatorial games, or slavery, torture, or execution.

If we are abiding with Christ, spending time with Him daily we put off the sweet aroma of being with Him. To those who are beginning to seek the truth, that is attractive.

To those who hate the truth, it was offensive, no matter how loving and Christ-like the person may be.

Like the Roman Triumph Procession the same smell reminds you of your future. To the victorious Roman army it meant future glory; to the captives the smell is sweet, in and of itself, but it meant misery and death to the captive, in their future.

A wonderful privilege here.

1. Those seeking the truth are clearly guided to Jesus through you!
2. Those against Christ will be against you. There is no way to hide it; you smell of being with Christ.

Question: How come we do not smell good to everybody?

Answer: You are a walking conviction! If they were your party buddies before, and stop the party, they will drop you like a hot rock! For a while some will try to drag you back into the darkness with them because "Misery loves company!"

Ex. I Peter 4: 1-5

Some are willing to listen to you, **but they cannot get past the smell** of the world on you.

You are not an unbeliever, but you smell like one!

When you are not much different than them, why should they listen to a word you say?

Ex. I Peter 4:14-16 / Ephesians 4: 17-19

Final: You need to be in front of that procession with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Ex. Colossians 2:13-15