

## A Fragrant Savor

### **2 Cor. 2:14-16**

God makes manifest the fragrance of His knowledge throughout the whole earth... by us - the body of Christ. We smell up the world! The book of 2 Thessalonians calls us the hinderers of lawlessness. Jesus called us the salt (or preservatives) of the earth.

verses 15-16 describe what we smell like:

1. To God, we smell like Christ.
2. To the saved, our fellow brethren, we smell of life unto (more) life
3. To the perishing (unsaved world), we smell of death unto (more) death

Let's talk about what smells do for us. The olfactory sense!

1. Help us to taste before and during our tasting. (what do you do with milk that's been in the fridge a little too long? Do you chug down a whole glass to decide if it's still good? Nope! You smell it!

**Our sense of smell helps us to identify the state of something.**

2. Reminds us of our surroundings.  
Fresh baked bread vs. Dog poo

This is our role. It is our calling on the earth. We are living epistles known and read of all men.

So... is this something that is automatic in the life of a believer? Are we born again into the image of Jesus and walk about as part of the body of Christ and we are Christ to God, life to the believer, and death to the unbeliever?

Let's look at it another way...

## Appreciating the Body of Christ

**Colossians 3:1-8, Ephesians 4:22-26, 29** puts it this way:

**v. 29 AMPC; Col. 3:9-14**

**v. 10 AMPC**

This speaks of *identity*. The Apostle Paul is telling the Colossian church how to identify themselves as being in the body of Christ. Put off the old man, put on the new man.

**v. 14 AMPC, Col. 3:15-17**

Be thankful, and give thanks. One is an attitude of the heart, the other is a faith action.

This is how we live a fragrant lifestyle. This is the body of Christ functioning as it should.

**Heb. 13:15**

This is not an attitude of appreciation, or thankfulness. This is an active persistence, utilizing the faith and the lips of the believer to give praise to the Name that saves us.

*Being thankful is horizontal. Thanksgiving is vertical.*

Thanksgiving restores relationship

**Luke 17:11-19**

**Not all was well with Paul**

**2 Cor. 1:8-9 AMPC**

God causes death and sickness and poverty and despair? No! “Every good and perfect gift...” But, where there is a sentence of death, there is one Who raises the dead.

And a chapter later, Paul writes “thanks be unto God which always causes us to triumph in Christ...”

**1 Thessalonians 5:18**

**v. 18 AMPC**