

MESSAGE NOTES:

2 Corinthians 2:12-17

Ministers of the New Covenant

¹² Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, ¹³ I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said goodbye to them and went on to Macedonia.

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. ¹⁵ For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task? 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, as those sent from God.

2 Reasons for Wonder

1. We can share in Christ's Triumphal Procession

"But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere." (2 Corinthians 2:14)

2. We can share in Christ's Earthly Mission

"But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task? Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God." (2 Corinthians 2:14-17)

STUDY GUIDE:

STEP ONE: Icebreaker (Optional):

- What is one area or activity in your life that you wish you could spend more time doing?

STEP TWO: Prayer & Scripture reading

- Ask someone in your group to pray to open your time together.
- Ask another person to read **2 Corinthians 2:12-17**.

STEP THREE: Discuss Questions

1. What was challenging, encouraging, confusing, or stood out most to you from this past weekend's teaching?
2. Paul uses the imagery of a "triumphal procession" in this passage. What comes to mind when you think about a triumphal procession that is led by Christ? Why do you suppose Paul chose this specific imagery to share at this point in his letter?
3. In this passage, Paul claims those following Christ are the "pleasing aroma of Christ" to those who know God and those who do not yet know Him. What do you think is meant by this and where can modern readers of 2 Corinthians find encouragement in this?
4. Considering how readily available information/knowledge can be found in today's world. What are some effective ways in which you've seen the knowledge of Christ spread to others in our modern context?
5. Verse 17 places importance on speaking before God with sincerity and authenticity, as those sent from God. Can you think of any examples of people in your life who speak in this way? What is the ripple effect of being around people like this?
6. Read 2 Timothy 1:7-9. How do these verses speak to you about finding your God-given purpose in life? What do you think of when Paul talks about "suffering for the Gospel" in verse 8?

STEP FOUR: Prayer

- Ask someone in your group to close in Prayer.