

What is one of your favorite smells?

GCC YG - APR 19, 2026

fragrant captives

being the aroma of Christ

2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-17

2 Corinthians 1 ESV

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and **God of all comfort**,* ⁴ *who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.* ⁵ *For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.*

2 Corinthians 1 ESV

⁶ *If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.* ⁷ ***Our hope for you is unshaken,*** for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

2 Corinthians 1 ESV

⁸ *For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.* ⁹ *Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was **to make us rely not on ourselves but on God** who raises the dead.*

2 Corinthians 1 ESV

¹⁰ *He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that **he will deliver us again.*** ¹¹ *You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.*

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 ESV

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶ to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷ 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.

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 ESV

¹⁴ *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.*



The Triumph of Titus | worldhistory.org



The Triumph of Aemilius Paulus | worldhistory.org

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 ESV

¹⁴ *But thanks be to God, who in Christ always **leads us [as captives] in triumphal procession**, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.*

- **Believers' lives are the display and result of Christ's victory**
- **The fragrance/knowledge of Christ spreads through his people**

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 ESV

¹⁵ For ***we are the aroma of Christ*** to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing,

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 ESV

¹⁶ to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?

2 Corinthians 2:16 NIV

*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?*

Two types of witnesses of Christ's triumphal procession:

- **Those who accept the message of the gospel**
- **Those who reject the gospel**

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 ESV

17 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.

Paul's standards for being the aroma of Christ:

- **With sincerity**
- **As those sent by God**
- **Before (accountable to) God**
- **In Christ**

We are the aroma of Christ

Our transformation and obedience to Christ
spreads the knowledge of God

We are those who smell the aroma

To some, the aroma is of life.
To others, the aroma is of death.

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To some, the aroma is of life.
To others, the aroma is of death.

Small Group Questions

- What stood out to you from today's message?
- Does being a Christian – a representative of Christ, a bearer of the aroma of Christ – put any pressure on you?
- A reality we face is that many people around us are “perishing” by living for the world and not knowing or accepting Christ. Is there a specific way God might be calling you to take action on this?
- Jesus taught in **Matthew 7:20** *“you will recognize them by their fruits.”*
 - Do you feel like you are bearing good fruit and giving off a pleasant aroma? How can you be better in this area?
- What other “aroma” is more attractive to you right now than the aroma of Christ? Pray for each other after you share.