

Perspectives

Do You Smell?

Smells are powerful. Certain smells have the power to bring back certain memories. For example, often when I smell bacon cooking, my mind goes back to the times my mom would cook a special early morning breakfast. We may also identify certain smells with special days. For example, if I mentioned the smell of a turkey cooking, your mind most likely would think of some kind of Thanksgiving or other holiday memory. Not only do certain smells bring to mind certain memories, certain things bring to mind certain smells. For example, if I were to say gym locker room, or swamp, or bouquet of roses, or stockyard, most likely a certain smell would come to mind.

Smells have an effect on us. Think about the pleasant feeling you get when you enter a house and smell a delicious meal cooking, or smell someone's perfume/cologne that you like, or the scent of an air freshener. Now, think about how you feel when you get a whiff of bad breath, or someone who hasn't showered in a while, or burnt toast. Smells are powerful. We are attracted to pleasant smells and repelled by unpleasant ones.

2 Corinthians 2:15-16 says, "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?" As believers, we are the aroma of Christ to others in the things we say and do. In regard to our spiritual aroma, one writer puts it this way, "Those who are being drawn by the Spirit immediately recognize the life-giving power of the message. Those who stubbornly refuse to believe, however, smell something foul—the judgment of death awaits them."*

During this quarter, think about the aroma of your life. What do you—spiritually speaking—smell like? Pray that God would make you a fragrance of the life offered through Christ to those around you. Ask the Holy Spirit to give your life an odor that, when encountered, points people to Christ.

May God bless you as you study His Word this quarter!

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* *Life Application Bible Commentary: 1 & 2 Corinthians* (Carol Stream: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1999), 304-305.