



## PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

12 When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, 13 my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia.

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 2:12-17

## SUMMARY

Each of us has a God-given influence on the lives around us. How do we make the most of this? We are not to be passive, yet we are also not to try to take control as if we are the ones who guide the Holy Spirit. Our passage today will provide us with much needed guidance on what we want, which is to live the life of influence that points people toward Jesus Christ.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In 2 Corinthians 2:15-16, Paul says we are the aroma of Christ to God. To better understand this statement, read Genesis 8:20, Leviticus 23:18, and Numbers 28:27. In these verses, what is God's response to the aroma from the sacrifices offered?
2. Now read Ephesians 5:2, Hebrews 9:26, Hebrews 10:12, and 1 Peter 3:15. Christ was the final and ultimate sacrifice, and those that believe in Him are the pleasing aroma to God from that sacrifice. Consider the influence you have on those in your family, workplace, and friend groups. In what ways are you sharing the aroma of life to those with whom you interact? The way we live can mean life or death to those around us.
3. According to Ephesians 5:1-2, and Romans 12:1, how do you believe that we, as followers of Jesus, are to live and consider our own lives?
4. In 2 Cor. 2:17, Paul asks who is qualified to this ministry of life and death and reminds us that we are empowered and commissioned by God for this work. When you commission something, you formally arrange for someone to do something for you because they are equipped and capable to do so. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Titus 3:1-11, and Hebrews 13:20-21. According to these verses, how has God equipped you to fulfill the responsibility given you?
5. Consider Titus 3:1-11. We are instructions on how we are to be ready for good work on behalf of the Gospel at all times. Do you consider yourself prepared at all times to be the aroma of life to those with whom you come into contact? Why or why not?
6. Do you feel you are completely surrendered to this commission placed on your life? Spend some time in prayer and ask God what changes He would have you make in your life to completely accept and live to fulfill God's the commission He has placed on your life. How can you encourage other believers to identify and live out the commission God has placed on their lives?

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