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2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-16

2 Corinthians Series

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we pause now in this moment before you, each one in our own hearts bringing a sacrifice of praise, coming into your courts with thanksgiving. Lord, we thank you that you use thanksgiving in our hearts in a powerful way. In Philippians you talk about when we're dealing with anxiety we should bring everything to you with prayer and thanksgiving. Because there's something about thanksgiving that does something in our hearts. So I'm grateful for the way you created us. You tend to push those things into the back sometimes and our selfishness creeps in sometimes and we become demanding or critical. Or we just forget because we're too busy to thank. So Lord, just today and this week as we're reminded about thanksgiving, I pray that you would touch us deeply in our hearts. Reveal to us something that would bless us and grow us in a new way in this area of gratefulness in our lives. Now Lord, I'm asking that as we look at this passage in 2 Corinthians that you would use it to teach us and grow us to help us to be the people that you want us to be. In Jesus' name, amen.

Sometimes you know you have to spend a little time pausing in order to think about things you're thankful for. But then there are other times that it just happens in life and you go, "Whoa! Praise the Lord!" I don't know if you say that. But "praise the Lord" or "thank you, Jesus." It comes right to you because you just experienced something that was from God. You knew it was from God. When it happened you go, "Yes, that's just what I needed. Thank you Lord, for working out the circumstances or the details or the challenges in that particular way." So we're grateful about what God wants to do in our lives.

Paul, in our passage today, starts with one of those, "praise the Lord" statements. 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 is the verses we're going to look at today. I'd like you to stand with me as we read them together. But notice the initial praise or the statement of thanks in it. Stand with me, would you?

Verse 14 starts this way: *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?*

Today we're going to talk about aroma and smelling good. So before you sit down, tell the person next to you, "You smell good," and then go ahead and have a seat. You can be seated again.

When we understand this passage it's going to give us some practical insight about how we should live and what God wants to do through us. That's this special thing about this one passage.

Now I'm skipping verses 12 and 13 because we have so much to do today, I just want to zero in 14-16. But I've got to come back to 12 and 13, probably next week. Because I told you why he's so grateful. Just to help you understand in verses 12-13 he meets up with Titus who he didn't know where he was or they didn't have GPS or Find Your Friends or whatever it is. They didn't have those things. But they did have the ability to connect, so that's why he's saying *but thanks be to God* for that.

Then he launches in his next doxology. He launches in this passage of scripture that's so interesting because he takes this analogy of a triumphal procession, which I don't think you're going to know much about unless I tell you about it because we don't have that kind of thing today. You kind of have to know the culture of the day.

In the Roman Empire, which is where they lived at the time, the Romans were conquering the world. Whenever they would conquer a city, they would send runners back to say we won the battle, and of course everybody would be happy about that. But then when they came back into town they would have a special celebration, even a parade that they would launch and go through the town to celebrate the fact that they won the battle. The closest thing we have to that is like a ticker tape parade or a sports team (not an army, but a sports team) comes back and we have a celebration that they've won the battle or won the sports game.

In Rome the way it would line up is always predictable. First of all, early in the morning the priest would go out and they would burn large piles of incense. The incense would smell up the whole town. Everybody's saying, "Oh yes, we're going to have a party today." This is the day it just smelled good whenever we had some kind of a celebration like that. Then when the actual parade came through, all the soldiers would march through first. They'd be rejoicing that they won, followed by the central figure in the procession, which would be the general. The general was the main guy and he would be celebrating often on a white horse (which has symbolism for us when we look at the New Testament on Christ's return). He was often on a white horse because of the victory celebration, followed then by the kings or generals that they defeated being handcuffed, chained, taken around, brought along, who would either be killed by the emperor or released by the emperor based on what he wants to accomplish in the midst of that. Following that would be all the booty that was there and any other prisoners that they had received.

So there was this huge processional they went through. The very front of the processional, even before the soldiers, were the priests swinging these incense bowls that would create this aroma and smell. So it's that picture now that we see in 2 Corinthians that Paul wants to take and he wants to use it for an illustration for us in our lives. I want to point out three things in this passage for you to understand and grasp.

The first thing I want you to see in the passage is the words *in Christ*. Do you see that there? *Who always leads us as captives in Christ*. I want you to see that this is Christ's processional. It's really Christ who is the one who won the victory.

Sometimes in our life we can say we're in the victorious Christian life. I like to use those words, victorious Christian life. But really that's redundant. You don't need the word 'victorious,' because Christian life is victorious. You don't need to say it unless you've forgotten it. The Christian life is victorious. That's part of the deal.

We're in victory, not because we do all these things, but because of what Christ has done. He's nailed our sins to the cross. He's taken away our shame, taken away our guilt. He's given us a purpose. He loves us. He's moving us forward. It's Christ's victory that we get to enjoy. If you start thinking it's your victory, some days you're going to be doing well and some days you're not going to be doing well and you're going to start feeling good or bad based on the circumstances. But when you recognize that it's Christ's victory, it does something for you because now you're walking in that victory. Not trying to achieve it; you're walking in it. It already exists for you. So the first principle that I want you to see from this passage is that this is Christ's victory.

The second thing that I want you to see is that it's talking about this aroma. Notice what the aroma is in the passage. It is the knowledge of Christ. That is the aroma. In other words, the aroma is kind of spreading out and Paul is saying we're like that processional because we are demonstrating that aroma of Christ, which is the knowledge of Christ, that aroma. In other words, we're bringing a good smell to the world, that's what we're doing. We're helping the world experience that.

So the second principle I want to share with you is that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. It's not just about you and me. We're part of a procession. We're part of a parade. We're part of a victory celebration. It might take place in your life individually. But you're just one person. There are other people, maybe in your family. You're also celebrating the victory of Christ. Then of course there's our church that we enjoy.

We're only about a hundred people. There are other good churches in our community. Pastor Gay at Central Baptist. Pastor Dick Emmons at GraceWay. Pastor Dan Greco at Lifetree Church. There are other churches all around us. Josh at the 217 Church. Now we're part of something bigger than just this church. We collectively are bringing the sweet-smelling aroma to our community and helping to bless our community with something that smells good.

What is the smell? It is the knowledge of God. That's what we're bringing to people. We want them not just to feel good. We want them to know something and when they know it, they go, "Wow, this is really great." We're part of something bigger. It's a smell.

My wife and I have been married for thirty-nine years. This next anniversary is going to be forty years that we'll be married. But I want to go way back to the beginning because right after we got married we went on a honeymoon and we drove from Oregon down to southern California to

go to Disneyland as part of our honeymoon experience. But also after enjoying Disneyland for however long, on another day we went to Knott's Berry Farm.

Now Knott's Berry Farm is another amusement park, but they're known for their berries and pies and so on. So after we paid our admission fee, we went in and as we were starting to walk around in there, we smelled the berries and they smelled so delicious. Boysenberries, blackberries, raspberries, blueberries. I don't know what they were, but oh they just smelled so good. So we abandoned our plans to go ride on rides and start hunting for the bakery or wherever it is to find this place where the smell was coming from. We're going around all these buildings. We even go to the place where just the employees are supposed to be. We can't find where the smell is coming from. So we decide to abandon that after a while. So we did some stuff at Knott's Berry Farm, but as we're coming back there's that smell again. Let's go try to find it again. So we go all over trying to find that smell. It was so attractive.

This idea of aroma is one that I think we can all recognize. There's good smells and there's bad smells. Let's not talk about the bad smells. I'm sure that you can identify a lot of those. Let's talk about those good smells that we enjoy because as Christians we bring into the environment the sweet-smelling knowledge of God.

Giff Claiborne is a great man, one of my mentors. I learned so much from him. In fact he introduced me to ministry times after the worship service like we do. We have a ministry time and how to pray for people who need healing. He helped me understand words of knowledge, words of wisdom and how to work with those in a ministry experience. I just love Giff Claiborne. He did a lot of things in my life just helping me understand about spirituality, what active spirituality looks like.

I remember one time he and I were sitting in a restaurant eating. I don't remember why we were there or what we were talking about. All I remember is that he and I were there talking. And over here there was a table of rough guys and the words coming out of their mouths were just foul. Every other word was the f-word or sh-word. After a few moments of that, Giff Claiborne says, "Praise the Lord!" really loud in the restaurant. And I'm going whoa, that was odd. I didn't say anything. But we continued talking and a couple minutes later he goes, "Hallelujah!" I said to him, "What are you doing?" He says, "I'm reclaiming this space for Jesus." I like that.

Do you see what he was doing? It was smelling pretty bad in that restaurant, but what he was doing was bringing that sweet smelling knowledge of God in a place that was starting to feel rather dirty.

Now I believe that we are those kinds of people that God has called. Because you see the next words there – He *uses us*. Verse 15 – *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.* Wow.

Let's back up in 14. He says He uses us to spread the aroma. I want you to understand that when you spread the aroma, some are going to like it and some are not, and you're not responsible for that. Some just don't like to smell good.

I've got to tell you, I'm working with a parent of a boy right now. He's eight years old. She's making him do his own laundry. If he's going to wear clean clothes, he's got to do his own laundry. He hasn't done the laundry for thirty days. He keeps wearing dirty clothes. So she called the school and said, "Would you tell him his clothes smell bad? He needs to come home and wash his clothes. I'm trying to teach him how to do that."

Some people are content or they don't like to smell good. So you've got to know that when you try to smell good, some people aren't going to like it. But God has called us to bring the sweet aroma of the knowledge of God to everyone and some are going to get saved as a result.

It's a privilege for me to be a part of this church. Because there's a lot of people in this church who smell good. They're sharing the gospel with people. They're sharing the knowledge of God with people in various ways. I want you to hear from them some of the things that they're doing just because I think that you'll be inspired by that as well.

I'm going to start with Sue and Cindy. Why don't you come up here, Sue and Cindy. Come on down here.

Remember when we started small groups? We'll start small groups again in January. We'll have eight to twelve weeks of small groups and you're going to help choose what kind of groups we want. Well Cindy says, "I want to lead people to the Lord in my neighborhood, so I want to start a small group in my neighborhood." So tell us why did you do it and what did you do?

[Cindy] Well I've always been intrigued by the verse Malachi 3:16 that says – *Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name.*

I just thought the Lord hears us when we talk about Him. So more than a Bible study I was thinking of the concept of gathering neighbors together to talk about the Lord, to honor His name, to be free to ask questions, and to share doubts and fears. Not like a strict Bible study.

So Sue and I went and handed out about twenty or so flyers around the neighborhood and we only got one neighbor that responded. But there were women that heard of it peripherally and contacted me and said, "That's something that I've really been wanting to do." So we have women who go to church, but have never learned about Christ or opened the Bible. They didn't know what the Old Testament was, what the New Testament was. We do follow an outline, so there is order, Scott's material on salvation and baptism and all the basics. But we allow a lot of time for questions and discussion and detours. Sometimes we only cover two or three or four questions in a night. But everyone leaves feeling, I hope, that they know Jesus better.

So in that process, my mom (who is not a Christian and lives in the house), although she professed to not be interested, she somehow always finds her way into the kitchen and pulls up a chair. So it's spreading and I'm praying that my sister who lives in the house will do the same some night.

[Scott] Great. And Sue, what was your kind of role in all of this?

[Sue] Well I just wanted to help Cindy with her heart. She has a heart to reach people for Jesus and I do too. So we started using your studies, which are really designed to do a self-study and then you mail it back to Pastor Scott and he sends you the next one. But we found that doing it together questions come up as we're reading the scriptures. We're able to minister to one another and encourage one another in the Lord, and then searching the scriptures for answers to their questions and everything. It's been such a blessing. We were only supposed to do it for eight weeks, but the ladies want to continue to do it. So we're going to continue to do it. Really the first six weeks we only made it through establishing a relationship with God.

[Scott] The first lesson.

[Sue] The first lesson. After six weeks we only made it through the first lesson.

[Scott] And am I to understand that some of these people aren't even Christians, or it's hard to tell? They're kind of, maybe.

[Sue] Well they have a heart to know the Lord, and that's our prayer that as they come each week that they would leave with Jesus. Not just a bunch of knowledge, but to leave with Him in their hearts. It's been really, really good. One of the ladies offered up to open up the Bible study and prayer list. Last week she stepped out and said, "Oh can I pray?" And she did and she did a beautiful job.

[Scott] Great. You guys are doing a great job. You smell great! Thank you for sharing that with us.

Paul, come on down here. Paul works in a situation that's rather challenging that you wouldn't think normally you could share your faith. But Paul is sharing the knowledge of God with folks. But I want him to share with us. Paul, where do you work? Tell us the situation where you work and then what do you do to share Jesus with those people?

[Paul] The other day Pastor asked me to talk about what I do. Pastor asked me to come say two minutes or less what I do. I don't do much like a lot of people here, but the little things I do are a lot behind closed doors.

For example, I get *Daily Bread* books and I just pop them into the teachers' mailbox. Lots of times they don't even know where they come from. But I got some teachers that finally figured out and they have the audacity to come up and say, "Hey, the *Daily Bread* book comes out every three months. I didn't get my daily bread book three days ago." So I realized some people are reading it. So I do that every three months. I just pop a *Daily Bread* book into the teachers' mailbox. We have about 400 teachers, so that's one way.

The second things we do Operation Christmas Child. We did it here at the church. Great job. We do it at my school. We started about four or five years ago. I get about a half a million brochures that come from Operation Christmas Child.

[Scott] Did you say half a million?

[Paul] About 500,000.

[Scott] Whoa. Okay.

[Paul] I just put them everywhere. We get between 70-130 boxes, so we get something.

[Scott] And this is in a public school environment in Staten Island.

[Paul] New York City public school. Rough crowd. So I put these all over. Every year I think we're going to get shut down. But I work behind the scenes. I get teachers; I organize them. They're in the front seat; I'm behind. I gather the boxes when nobody is around. I bring in my car. I bring them to a church up north. I bring them here.

So this year this one lady comes running up to me. "Paul! Paul! I saw your brochure. We have to get the principal's approval to do Operation Christmas Child."

I said, "Look, we've been doing this for a couple years. You can't shut it down."

She said, "Well I've got to talk to the principal."

So I said, "Okay." Where is this going to go now?

A couple days later she comes running up again. She says, "The principal says we can do it." Then we ended up keeping the shoeboxes in her classroom, which was good. So that's how that worked out.

But the other thing after school I do, I have mass cards. Everybody loses somebody, a family member, someone from the school. I have mass cards that I buy and I just keep them in my drawer. If someone has a relative that passes away, I sign it first and then I get it out to other people. I say, "Hey, can you sign this." Before you know it, it ends up back in my box and you have 50-100 names on that card. But it always has some scriptures – John 3:16 is on there, a few other scriptures. So all I do is start it and then it circulates. They probably don't even know it started with me because I'm behind the scenes with everything. It ends up in my box and I just give it to the person that lost somebody.

The other thing I've got birthday cards and thank you cards. Same thing. Somebody has a birthday. You see balloons and all these other things. I just sign it first, it goes around, it comes back, and I give it to the person with all the names on it. Thank you cards. You guys heard of Duck Dynasty? I love those cards because the guy has long hair. So I get that card. I get birthday cards, thank you cards. The kids, the teachers sign them. The other day I was amazed that one guy thanked me for the birthday card. He said, "Thanks for that card." But I like the Duck Dynasty because it blends in with the kids. You see a guy with long hair; I can relate to his guy. But they all have one or two Bible verses in each card. So those are the little things.

The other thing I do is I grew up Catholic. I abandoned the Catholic faith. I blend in when I can. So I've been teaching what they call CCD for the last eight, ten, fifteen years. What I do is then I make the kids bring the Bible. I'm always ready to get fired every time I leave every night. But the kids bring their Bibles every Tuesday night. I leave work at a quarter to four, then CCD goes to 5:15. The church is right across the street from where I work out in Staten Island, Our Lady Star of the Sea.

So we go here, we do the CCD, the kids write. We start with John. We usually don't get through John. But every day we'll read a chapter. I start to cover some of the stuff in the Catholic book. I'm very selective with what I cover. But the kids are learning the Bible.

So the first thing we do is they have these big CCD books. They're bigger than the Bible almost. They're huge. So I have all the kids write every chapter in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. So one kid runs up to one of the ladies in charge that day and he says, "Look what we did in CCD." I said well I'm definitely going to get fired now. So the kid shows her and he writes down all the chapters and he said, "We learned John, we learned this, we learned that. I really enjoy this." The lady didn't say anything.

But the kids bring their Bibles and I take advantage of that. I don't teach them everything from the booklet they're supposed to know, but they're learning the Bible. They're writing the verse on the board.

We talk about 1 John 1:9 where the Catholics believe in a confession process, so we go over that. If you're on an island and the priest isn't around, I'm not around, if you ask God for forgiveness, He's going to forgive. So we break out 1 John 1:9 and they study that. And then by the end of the year like right now every night the first thing the kids start with 1 John 3:16. They know that verse. In and out they know that verse.

Where it goes in the future, I don't know. All I do is plant little seeds. Like the guy I work with, if you talk to him about God, he'll break out the Bible and have a three-hour discussion. I'm not like that. I'm behind the scenes. I'm giving things out. And then when I give the kids something, he'll directly ask the other guy, because the guy has a Bible on his desk and the kids know that's the guy that taught the Bible. I might just open up some curiosity. "What is that John 3:16?" and then he'll go to him and he'll give him a three-hour class on John 3:16. But I'm behind the scenes with that.

The other thing I do I started with St. John's Catholic Church in Allentown. They were starting a Bible study in Ephesians. So I say we just finished the book of Ephesians. I go there and there's really only two people in this Bible study that have a Bible out. Everybody else has handouts. So I break out the Bible and what I get from that, these Catholics really don't know or are knowledgeable about the scriptures, but we went through the whole book of Ephesians.

What was pretty cool, a lot we talked about with Pastor Scott. And that was not a coincidence. So whatever Pastor Scott would say, I would be able to say at this Catholic Bible study and they think I got all the knowledge. I'd say well I got that from Pastor Scott. But the thing is they're

open. They're open for these little things. Next starting January they're going to do the book of John.

So I don't do much compared to a lot of people. I'm behind the scenes of what I do. I just organize things. I get the word out. Even those birthday cards and those mass cards, even though they're Catholic mass cards, they're nice because they got John 3:16, they got another few verses about death and about God's promises. So it's little things like that.

Like Pastor said, I don't know what's half a million brochures, if I get 7 to 100, I make three trips, we've got three loads. Well probably have more on Monday now. But half a million of those brochures go out and we get 100 boxes. But some of these kids read the brochure. That's all they get. They like what they see and they go to the dollar store, they buy a few things, and they bring a shoebox back. So that's all I do. I don't do much.

[Scott] That's great, Paul. Thank you so much. That's really inspiring. I just really appreciate Paul. He's an inspiration to me. He's at the small group that we meet in Allentown. So grateful. He does smell good, doesn't he? Wasn't that great?

This is Matthew. Matthew is eleven years old. When he comes to church, he runs in here to help. He's committed to something more than just attending church on Sunday. Why, Matthew, are you very interested in serving and not just sitting on Sunday mornings?

[Mathew] My dad would serve the church and I wanted to serve like my dad did. So I try serving as much as I can.

[Scott] That's great. And what kinds of things do you like to do?

[Matthew] Well here I like to carry stuff to the truck and I like to help out. Well sometimes when I'm not here at the church I like to help out with the baby. It's my favorite job to do.

[Scott] How many people are in your family?

[Matthew] Well it's just me and my siblings and my parents at the house.

[Scott] Wait. But how many siblings do you have?

[Matthew] Umm six.

[Scott] You have six. And two parents. I bet you get to serve a lot at home too. Matthew, I am really grateful for you. I'm grateful for what you are doing.

I am mentoring Matthew on Sunday mornings. That's why you're seeing him greeting people on Sunday. He's going around helping what he's doing behind the scenes, but he's also a people person. So he's going to be talking to you and interacting with you and welcoming you here to Calvary Chapel Living Hope. Mathew, I'm grateful for what you're doing. You smell great!

Edith. Come on. Share with us, Edith, about what you did. You went to camp with Ed Miller and God did some things in your life. Would you just share what you and Riola, your daughter, did at the camp.

[Edith] So Pastor Scott reached me by email and asked me if I could do this sharing. But then he also said that he was preaching on 2 Corinthians 2:14 and that was the sermon he wanted to use this. So for a while I wondered how I was going to tie that in my experience. So I told him, “You know what I’m going to do? I’m going to share my experience and if I leave something out, you can ask me.” He said he would interview me. So I said, “No. Don’t interview me. I will share my experience. If I leave out something then you can ask me questions.”

[Scott] That’s fine.

[Edith] So let me start like this. By a show of hands, let me know who has been to Lake Champion?

[Scott] Okay, several of you.

[Edith] That’s a good number that has been there, so I won’t go through a whole lot of details because a lot of people have gone there. So Ed Miller did announce that there was this InterVarsity event coming up. Even I think before that he had sent some video clips about Young Life, we had talked about Young Life. So I looked at those video clips. I liked them. It looked like a good retreat place. So when this came out that there was this InterVarsity event and he needed servers, I was probably the first person to put my hand up to email him back and say, “Me! I’m excited! I’m going!”

So the other thing, other than watching the video clips, is that because this was a university event or involving university students, it took my mind back to when I actually received Jesus as a personal Savior. I was in the university and I remember all the things that went on in the retreat. So I knew that would take my mind back there. I wanted to be part of that sort of thing. I was very excited getting ready to go.

Of course we had a good trip, we had a good driver, all went well. And then we got there and the place looked as good, even better than my imagination. It really looked good. So we started the working and it was actually a lot of work. We had teenagers. My daughter who is also here was there and we did the serving. So it could be a lot of work. But the people we were working with were a good group. They were very courteous. It was a holy environment. There was Christian music the whole time. People were so helpful. When there was something to do, it was like people were on skates ready to help. So of course there were prayers. The food was great.

Most servers were not experienced. Almost all the servers were not experienced servers and we were carrying these trays. Me, of course, I do. But we even had two thirteen year olds and they carried these trays, they carried the juices and food and things, and no tray dropped. I mean I thought that was very good.

I had to reread 2 Corinthians 2:14. I thought how do I put that in there? First of all, meeting all these young Christians was great. And then there were also an opportunity for me to attend when a lot of young people actually gave their lives to Christ at that time. A lot of tears and people to help them after that. So that was very good to see. So while I was there I felt that this is good. This is so good. I've been around churches all over the place. I've lived in the United States for many years and how come I don't know about this. I'm surprised I don't know about this. I go to churches and all.

But then I was also assured because I'm like look at all these folks. These are university students and they are going to graduate. Of course many of them were workers like me, they were out in the field. I felt so assured knowing that we have these big groups of people, those who are going to graduate and get out in the field and workplaces. We really have a big army of Christ, which is going to be there. Which is here.

Of course I inquired a little bit about this thing. What's Young Life? So I was so impressed about that. But I felt assured again saying well we have this, so we can reach a whole number of people.

I don't know about you, but I don't see a lot of good news on the media. Will CNN talk about what we do or the good news? When are we getting them to spread the good news? So then I went back to 2 Corinthians and I felt that I was taken as captive into the Christ triumphal procession. Somehow I got out something telling me that there is hope. Of course when I got out I have many chat groups and I started telling them about my experiences and also telling them even in your town, even in your state, you could find this.

[Scott] Very good. Thank you, Edith. Very nice. Thank you. I just appreciate Edith's way that she's spreading the knowledge of God is through service with her daughter in that particular way.

Paulette, come up. You can turn off the social media for just a minute or hand it to someone else. It's okay. Come on up here. Paulette heads up our social media team and is really doing a lot to try to share the knowledge of Christ with people. I just want her to share with you her thoughts about why she's doing this and what she's doing.

[Paulette] Okay so number one reason why I'm doing this is because I love this church and I love this community. There's just so much that's wrong with social media, but social media is so powerful, so I just wanted to do something good with it. There's just so many people that want prayer and want to know things. I just wanted to share Calvary Chapel Living Hope with the rest of New Jersey because they need to be here.

[Scott] And how are you doing that? What does social media mean? What are we talking about here?

[Paulette] That's why you see me every Sunday doing a live broadcasting, I'm broadcasting Pastor Scott live so that people can see the sermon. I'm boosting the post.

[Scott] Where does that show up?

[Paulette] It shows up in our Facebook page. So I need everyone to go and like our page right now. We're only at 400 people that like our Facebook page. But the more that you engage with our Facebook page, the more Facebook will bump it up in the hierarchy so that other people can see what we're doing. I might boost a lot of posts. It just does my heart good when I send out Pastor Scott's video previews. I call it "Sneak Peek Sunday" where people can kind of get a sneak preview of what we're doing this Sunday and I boost them. And when people click on it 1800 times, unique visitors 1800 times, that just warms my heart that people want to know what we're doing. They want to know what's going on. They want to hear the good news. So I'm just using this as a way to spread the good news.

[Scott] Great. Thank you very much. I'm really grateful for what you're doing.

[Paulette] So if you want to help me, because right now we do need someone to do Instagram, because I'm trying to reach a variety of people. For all the young people in here, Facebook is dead to you right now. You're on Instagram. So I need someone to really help out with Instagram. I'm looking for people to do posts. So if I walk up to you, I might ask you just a little video about why you love being here. I just want people to see people like themselves and to feel warmth and love.

[Scott] Paulette's like the fan that's like blowing the aroma around in places. We're grateful for her.

Carrie, come on and share.

[Carrie] Well there's lots of ways that we can reach out and spread that good news. I kind of teamed up with Paulette and have been working on Pinterest. Scott mentioned that already. I already have my own Pinterest account and I mainly did that because of my books. But within my own account I have a board that is called "My Church." So I take in some of the images from our church website and put them there and then people who follow my board, some of those things are coming up.

So then we decided our church should have its own account. That's what we just started a week ago. So we have nine boards that have things like "Core Belief" and "Worship." On the "Core Belief" one, I connected all these videos that are on the back of the card that we use when we share with people and we invite them to church. Because these are great. They are things to answer people's questions about heaven, about marriage, about evil, depression, death. All these topics are short videos that are excellent, really well done. So I pinned (pin just means you save that image there on a board in Pinterest).

So Pinterest is a like a social media thing. I know not all of you are into that, but people go here to get inspiration and to get ideas. So it's a great place that we can share things. That's one place where we're doing it. One of my boards just has really pretty quotes from the Bible that are artistic and people seem to like that and take those. And then you can go there and visit it our

account, our boards, and take them and pin them on your boards. That's another way that you can start moving our images around so that people will connect with us that way.

[Scott] So we have a Calvary Chapel Living Hope Pinterest account and there are boards on it and there are pictures on the boards. And if somebody wanted to find this, how would they find it?

[Carrie] Well, you can just google Pinterest and you can go on and see them that way. If you want to share them, you have to open your own account. It's like Facebook where there is a newsfeed kind of a page for lots of people sharing images and then you would have your own account where you would have different boards where you collect images. But the images all link back to somewhere on the internet or you can load them from your computer. But that's why we're trying to get people to pin things off of our church website. If you're not familiar with our church website, that's a great place to take a look and get things and share with people too.

[Scot] Alright. Thank you, hon. You smell great!

I'm going to zip through to the passage again. Do you see the last statement in the passage that we're looking at today? I just love it. It's quite a challenge. It says – *And who is equal to such a task?* When you hear all these people sharing, I hope it's generating an idea in you of how you might take Jesus and bring the knowledge of Jesus, that sweet aroma out so that other people could experience it. God wants to do amazing things in our lives. But then He also takes that and He does it through us to other people, and that becomes a sweet aroma of the knowledge of Christ.

Thank you all for sharing. I know some of you were a little hesitant to stand up and share, but I'm just really grateful you did because I think that's the best application of this passage is letting people see into the hearts and lives of the people here.

If God is speaking to you in your own heart, it's now that we're going to have a ministry time. A time when we're going to sing a song and offer to the Lord our hearts. God wants to minister to you in particular. So take some time and just think about what God may want to do in your own heart.

Would you stand with me?

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we're coming before you now and asking for you to speak into us right now. Give us some direction. We want to take Jesus home into our lives. We want our lives to be this place where you are recognized and we share that aroma of the knowledge of Christ. So Lord, speak to us now and show us how we might need to do that in our lives this week. In Jesus' name, amen.