

THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST

2 Corinthians 2:15-16 ... “For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life...”

When today's verse speaks of “death leading to death,” it is referring to the hopeless physical death from which a person has no escape as it sends one to hell for eternity. “Life leading to life,” refers to the peaceful transition of a believer's soul to heaven leading to eternity with Christ on the new earth.

You influence and impact the lives of others around you through the choices you make. You may be a believer who goes to work every day, rests in the evening with your family, and attends church without giving much thought to what your faith in God says to others around you. Even if you do not speak of your faith to friends and coworkers, you are still influencing them through how you live, the decisions you make, the places you go, and the things you do, because people are watching you.

Today's verse uses symbolic language to suggest that your faith in God creates an aroma that pleases him, and also communicates to people around you. Your faith in God reminds unsaved persons around you that they are headed to an unpleasant destiny. At the same time, your faith reminds fellow believers that they will someday join you in Heaven. However, you must not be shy about sharing your faith with others, because that is one of the reasons you were created.

We do not know if an actual aroma reaches the nose of God when we are saved. However, we often do recognize other believers through their lifestyles, words, and actions, just as we recognize unbelievers through their lifestyles. It is certainly best for you to tell others about Jesus. But, if you are silent (which is disobedience, I might add), you are still communicating something about your faith to other people through your lifestyle. So, it is vitally important that you do not presume that your silence about God, is a smoke screen for your sin. Some believers keep silent about God and play with sin thinking others will not catch on that they are believers. If you do that, you are communicating the wrong message about God and possibly leading some to hell, instead of heaven.

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