

Time Audit Chronicles: The Triumph of the Gospel

(2 Corinthians 2:12-17)

Prologue: A Fragrance that Fills the World

The Presswood family sat together, reading **2 Corinthians 2:12-17**, where Paul uses a powerful metaphor to describe believers as the **fragrance of Christ**, spreading the knowledge of God wherever they go. Ariel had been thinking about how a fragrance could represent something as deep as the gospel, while Alice, clutching Mr. Fluffernutter, was imagining a garden filled with flowers representing believers spreading the aroma of Jesus' love.

"Daddy," Ariel began, "why does Paul call believers a **fragrance**? What does that mean?"

Ryan leaned forward, smiling. "That's a great question, Ariel. In ancient Roman culture, when a general won a major victory, they would hold a **triumphal procession**—a grand parade through the city. As part of the celebration, they would burn **incense**, filling the air with a sweet aroma. That fragrance became a symbol of **victory**. Paul is using this imagery to explain that, as believers, we are part of Christ's **triumphal procession**—spreading the good news of His victory over sin and death to the world."

Ariel's eyes widened. "So, being the 'fragrance of Christ' means that our lives are like a sweet smell that shows others Jesus' victory?"

"Exactly," Ryan said. "As we live out the gospel, we're like a **spiritual fragrance**, reminding others of God's love and pointing them to Jesus. Let's use the **Time Audit Machine** to go back and experience what Paul meant when he wrote this passage."

The Journey Begins: Paul's Mission in Troas (2 Corinthians 2:12-13)

The **Time Audit Machine** powered up, and the family found themselves in the bustling port city of **Troas**, where Paul was on his missionary journey. The streets were busy with merchants, travelers, and ships arriving from distant lands. Paul was there to preach the gospel, and doors were opening for him to share the message of Jesus.

Ryan pointed to Paul, who was looking around the city with a sense of anticipation. "Paul had come to Troas to share the gospel, and he found many opportunities to preach. But notice something—he was still deeply concerned about his friend **Titus**, whom he had sent to Corinth earlier. He was hoping to hear back from him about how the Corinthians were doing after Paul's first letter to them."

Ariel observed Paul's mixed emotions. "So, Paul was excited about the opportunities in Troas, but he was also worried about Titus?"

"Yes," Ryan said. "Paul cared deeply about the people he ministered to, and he longed to hear how they were responding to his message. Even though he was facing challenges, Paul didn't lose sight of the **triumph of the gospel**—the fact that Jesus had already won the ultimate victory."

Triumphal Procession: A Victory Celebrated (2 Corinthians 2:14)

The scene shifted to a vivid image of a **Roman triumphal procession**, with soldiers marching, crowds cheering, and the sweet aroma of **incense** filling the air. In the midst of the procession was Paul, walking in step as a messenger of Jesus, spreading the **fragrance of Christ**.

Ryan explained, “Paul uses this image of a triumphal procession to describe how believers are part of Jesus’ **victory parade**. When Jesus rose from the dead, He defeated **sin**, **death**, and **Satan**. Now, as we share the gospel, we’re spreading the message of His victory to the world—like the fragrance of incense in a Roman parade.”

Ariel’s eyes lit up. “So, every time we share Jesus with someone, we’re part of that **victory procession**? It’s like we’re carrying the fragrance of His love everywhere we go.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Paul says, ‘**Thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.**’ (2 Corinthians 2:14). This means that God is using us to **spread the knowledge of Jesus** everywhere—just like incense spreads its aroma throughout the air.”

A Fragrance of Life and Death (2 Corinthians 2:15-16)

As the scene shifted, the family saw people responding to the gospel in different ways. Some embraced the message with **joy**, their faces filled with hope and light. Others turned away, their expressions hardened with rejection.

Ryan quoted Paul, “**For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life.**” (2 Corinthians 2:15-16).

Ariel frowned, thinking about the contrast. “So, the fragrance of Christ is like life to people who believe in Jesus, but it’s like death to people who reject Him?”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “The gospel is the same message for everyone, but how people **respond** to it makes all the difference. For those who accept Jesus, it’s the message of **eternal life**. But for those who reject Him, it’s a reminder of their separation from God. That’s why Paul says it’s both the **fragrance of life** and the **fragrance of death**.”

Ariel nodded slowly. “So, being the fragrance of Christ is about pointing people to the truth—whether they accept it or not.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Our job is to faithfully live out and share the gospel, trusting God with the results. The fragrance of Christ is always a reminder of His victory, whether people embrace it or reject it.”

Sincerity in Sharing the Gospel (2 Corinthians 2:17)

The scene shifted again, showing Paul writing his letter to the Corinthians. His pen moved steadily as he wrote about the importance of **sincerity** in sharing the gospel.

Ryan read aloud, “**For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.**” (2 Corinthians 2:17).

Ariel watched Paul write, understanding his heart. “So, Paul is saying that we shouldn’t share the gospel for selfish reasons or to twist it to fit what people want to hear. We have to share it honestly, the way God wants us to.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Paul wanted to make sure the Corinthians knew that his ministry was genuine—that he wasn’t preaching for fame, money, or personal gain. He was preaching out of love for God and for others. This reminds us that our lives, as the fragrance of Christ, should be marked by **sincerity, truth,** and a desire to honor God.”

Key Teaching: Believers as the Fragrance of Christ

Back in the garage, the **Time Audit Machine** powered down, and the family sat quietly, reflecting on what they had seen. Ariel turned to her father with a thoughtful expression. “So, being the fragrance of Christ means that our lives should point people to Jesus—like a sweet smell that makes them want to know Him.”

“Yes,” Ryan said, his voice warm. “As believers, our lives are meant to reflect the beauty and **truth** of Jesus. When we live out the gospel—through our words, actions, and love—we become like a fragrance that spreads His **knowledge** everywhere. It’s not about us—it’s about pointing people to the **victory of Jesus** and inviting them to experience His love and grace.”

Ariel smiled. “And even if some people reject the message, we can trust that we’re part of **God’s triumphal procession**, spreading His light and truth wherever we go.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Being the fragrance of Christ means living for Him with **sincerity**, trusting that He is working through us to bring others to Him.”

Takeaway: The Sweet Savour of Christ’s Victory

In 2 Corinthians 2:12-17, Paul describes believers as the **fragrance of Christ**, spreading the knowledge of God wherever they go. This image reminds us that, as followers of Jesus, we are part of His **triumphal procession**, carrying the message of His victory over sin and death to the world. While some will respond with faith, others may reject the message, but our calling remains the same: to live as **sincere witnesses** of Jesus, reflecting His love, grace, and truth.

Paul’s words challenge us to examine our lives: Are we living as a sweet fragrance that points others to Jesus? Are we spreading His knowledge with sincerity and faithfulness? As we walk in the triumph of

Christ, we are called to trust in His power, knowing that He is using us to make His presence known in the world. Through our lives, may we be a **sweet savour of Christ** to all we encounter.