

SCCC – TWO FRAGRANCES FOR HUMANITY

S - Scriptures

“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.” 2 Corinthians 2: 14

C – Consideration

Paul shared in the verse above his gratitude to become a captive of Christ, who had victoriously overcome the devil and his army on the cross. Paul was no longer a hostage of the devil, but captive by his new General. Then, he pointed out his new assignment as a servant of Christ to go the world spreading the gospel with other disciples, explained further, “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.” Paul concluded his narrative in chapter two saying: “Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ, we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God.”

Consideration

I thought to search for an answer for the following question: Why would Paul’s message have two fragrances? Thinking about how to answer this question, the context implies that their message is true, and for this reason, it contains two aromas: life and death. While others, not sent by God were preaching a false gospel with just one aroma to please the hearers for financial gains. As God’s messenger, Paul brings the challenging reality to his viewers: eventually, they had to make their choice: What effects does the gospel message would cause in their nostrils? Jesus, after quoting one of the most preached verses of the New Testament, about God’s gift to humanity by offering His Son as a sacrifice to save those who believe —John 3:16, the Lord said: “This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.” Parallel with Paul’s message, Jesus separated people into two categories, those who love darkness, hate the light (Jesus), and delight in evil, and those who respond to the truth (gospel) come to the light (Jesus), in repentance as their sins were exposed, but they were forgiven by Jesus’ atonement sacrifice.

C – Call

My God, help me to follow the steps of Paul. To be a servant of Christ and to carry the true message even though it will cause the double aroma in the nostrils of people. Help all of us to smell the gospel as life and not as death, to deeply understand the message of the Cross, the power of Jesus’ blood, the glory of Jesus’ resurrection, and the blessings of His promises. In His name, I pray. Amen.