

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 2:12-17

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING THE RIGHT HEART FOR HIS MINISTRY

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Ministry, Salvation, Heaven, Hell, Decision

2 Corinthians 2:12-17

:12 Furthermore, when I came to **Troas** to **preach Christ's gospel**, and a door was **opened to me by the Lord**, **:13** I had **no rest** in my spirit, because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for **Macedonia**.

:14 Now **thanks** be to God who **always leads** us in **triumph in Christ**, and through us **diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge** in every place. **:15** For we are to God **the fragrance of Christ** among those who are **being saved** and among those who are **perishing**.

:16 To the one we are the **aroma of death** leading to death, and to the other **the aroma of life** leading to life. **And who is sufficient for these things?** **:17** For we are not, as so many, **peddling** the word of God; but as **of sincerity**, but as **from God**, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

I had told you that many have criticized Paul for his authorship of 2 Corinthians due to the personal and intimate nature of what is exposed here in it. Mainly – the heart and soul of a man who has been dramatically transformed by the power of Jesus Christ and longs for others to know it too.

Remembering That...

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

And so this morning we begin a section – an explosion of spiritually-based passion. I think this is one of the greatest passages in the New Testament. It is the clearest explanation of **the secret of the Apostle Paul's phenomenal ministry success.** It runs from Chapter 2:12, all the way through to Chapter 7:2. I have seen its impact in the lives of many others over the years. It is such a splendid example of what genuine, true, authentic Christianity is. Yet, strangely enough, this great passage is a parenthesis or parenthetical insert in this Second Corinthian epistle; **it is a digression on the apostle's part – it explodes from out of his heart to the printed page.**

THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL IS

SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

1.) The confirmed will of Christ

v. 12-13

1a.) Confirmed in truth

v. 12

**Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel,
and a door was opened to me by the Lord,**

Troas, Troy is situated on the eastern coast of the Aegean sea. We know that it was a place of great spiritual hunger. The Gospel and Paul were happily received there.

a door was opened to me - by the Lord,

What If You and I Want to See God do The Same for Us?

#1

(Paul Knew What The Truth Was – He Stayed Within That Realm)

#2

(Paul Was 100% Yielded to What God Wanted)

#3

(Paul Preached the Gospel – Without Compromise)

what happens around us when God

“opens the door” for ministry?

decisions will be made. some yes. some no – but decisions will be made.

THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL IS THE CONFIRMED WILL OF CHRIST

1b.) Confirmed in love

v. 13

I had **no rest** in my spirit, because I did not find **Titus** my brother;
but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia.

“No Rest” = Troubled – but why?

*Titus was going to tell me how you guys are doing at Corinth.
No Titus – no news – no rest in my heart.*

Paul’s Heart Is Exposed Here – By Paul Himself.

Why Macedonia – Titus was there with Info.

Is This Emotion? Is This God’s Will? Is This The Right Thing To Do?

It is an extremely rare thing for God to call a man out of a fruitful field of service – but it has happened, and does happen at times.

Jesus, Phillip, Paul, Whitefield, all were called away from success

Paul’s Diary Entry That Day:

Wow – the LORD is moving here in Troas. I should be happy but in the midst of this clear appointment by God – I am about to quit out of sheer defeat and weakness and a sense of uselessness. – but why? I’m missing the Christians in Corinth and I can’t seem to locate Titus anywhere – he was supposed to update me on those in Corinth.

THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

2.) The assured victory by Christ

v. 14

:14 Now **thanks** be to God who **always leads** us in triumph in Christ, and through us **diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge** in every place.

2a.) We have an assured joy

v. 14a

Now **thanks** be to God who **always leads** us in triumph in Christ,

“Now thanks be to God who always leads us”
Scholars Debate the Timing of This Verse – This Way.

1.)- Verse 14 must have happened when Paul got news from Titus once having arrived in Macedonia.

2.) No – he took his passion, emotion, desire, hurt, fear and tucked them safely into the hands of Jesus Christ and pressed on.

WE CAN PRETTY MUCH GUESS HERE THAT THE TIME FRAME BETWEEN VERSE 13 AND 14 IS ABOUT 17 DAYS OF TRAVEL. (400 MILES)

“Who leads us in triumph in Christ,”
the Roman Triumphant Procession is in Paul’s mind here.
(everyone knew what he was talking about)

**IT MEANS FOR US – ASSURED VICTORY =
JOY**

*(((like **the pirates of the Caribbean** ride at Disneyland.
None of those pirates have caught me or slit my throat. I haven’t been hit by a cannon ball yet. Not once have any of our boats been sunk.)))*

*Yo Ho Yo Ho! A Christian's Life for Me!
We like to pray, We worship all day, A Christian Life for me...*

*The battle rages and yet we sail on. it’s rare for us to get a glimpse of any real success
– #1 - we can’t handle it #2 – it’s not about us.*

This word “Triumph” appears here and in only one other place in the New Testament...

Colossians 2:13-15

And you, **being dead** in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He **has made alive** together with Him, **having forgiven** you all trespasses, **:14 having wiped out** the handwriting of requirements that **was against us**, which **was contrary to us**.

And He **has taken it out of the way, having nailed it** to the cross. **:15 Having disarmed** principalities and powers, **He made** a public spectacle of them (the brutal cross and the empty tomb), **triumphing** over them in it.

**THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL
IS THE ASSURED VICTORY BY CHRIST**

2b.) We have an assured ministry

v. 14b

and through us **diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge** in every place. :

The Word Picture Here is That of an Old Testament Sacrifice.

The Offering was Placed on The Altar and Consumed Before the People and God.

The Aroma Must Have Been Awesome.

BBQ Meat Rising Up in a Sweet Cloud of Offering.

It is Exactly What's Meant in Romans 12.

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.* :2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

*In The Present Tense – Because of What's Been Done by Jesus Christ (Past Tense)
We are (always in the present) "Diffuse – Exude, Distribute, Emanate"*

*Like those GLADE plug in air fresheners.
They fill up the room with a fragrance.*

the fragrance of His knowledge **in every place.**

*Have you ever hugged or shook Hands with Someone that is loaded with cologne or
perfume...*

that the fragrance of His knowledge will be evident **in every place.**

Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. :2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

Lisa and I will never forget Saturday September 6th, 1997

After landing at London's Heathrow – we trained into London to our hotel and coming up on to the street – we stepped into the thick fragrance of flowers. Why? Princess Diana's funeral procession was making the four-mile procession to Westminster Abbey which was watched by over a million people lining the route. We didn't see the Royal – the Evidence of nobility was everywhere.

THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES AS A GATEWAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

3.) The guaranteed results through Christ v. 16-17

3a.) A guaranteed effect v. 15-16a

For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. :16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death,

Concerning Our Christian Life.

Corinthians 4:6-7

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. :7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

the seriousness of the Gospel going out of your mouth is this.

#1 we are under orders to tell those we come in contact with beginning in our homes.

#2 we are to speak that truth in love. **#3** we are to not compromise the gospel – that would instantly make it a false-rescue, a false-gospel. **#4** the results of their discussion isn't our responsibility, it is theirs alone.

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. :2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

2 Corinthians 4:3-5a ESV

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. :4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. :5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord,

in the roman triumph – those who went ahead of the general were those condemned to the arena (sand) and they would be dying before the crowd. These condemned prisoners carried a smoking censer of the same perfume

“as the procession made its way to the coliseum followed by the general and his commanders and then the priests with golden censors – followed still by the captives, the perfume from the censors reminded those prisoners that death was approaching. to those who were the victors – the perfume was exciting and victorious.” - Barnes

by the smell of things

some people get all ticked off about the hearing of the gospel.

I DID MY MOTHERS FUNERAL AND LOVED IT. BUT I WAS ATTACKED BY THOSE WHO WERE BLINDED TO THE GOSPEL.

Vultures are Repelled by Sweet Aromas

(but they can smell death and decay from miles away)

THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL IS THE GUARANTEED RESULTS THROUGH CHRIST

3b.) A guaranteed acceptance

v. 16b

and to the other **the aroma of life** leading to life.

3c.) A guaranteed end

v. 17

And who is sufficient for these things? :17 For we are not, as so many, - **peddling** the word of God; but as **of sincerity**, but as **from God**, we speak in the sight of God **in Christ**.

And who is sufficient for these things?

Who Can Undertake The Task With Trembling?

Who can be adequate enough to be the instrument by which God speaks to them about their glorious future in heaven or their horrific demise in hell. How can a human be used for things of such weight and matter?

The Extreme Danger That Looms Over Humanities' Head.

(the demonic crusade of false teachers and false doctrines – ever so subtle and ever so damning.)

this “peddling” includes all human wisdom, effort and philosophy added to the pure, holy, divine and perfect Gospel of God

peddling *kaphleu/w kapeleuo*, *kap-ale-yoo'-o*; from *καϋφλοϛ kapelos* a huckster / one who gathers things to be re-sold / a retailer / a diluter of wine.

2 Timothy 3:1

But know this, that in the last days **perilous times** will come:

2 Peter 2:1-4

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction. :2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. :3

By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. :4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

Revelation 1:16-18

He had in His (**triumphant**) right hand seven stars, out of His (**triumphant**) mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His (**triumphant**) countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength. :17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His (**triumphant**) feet as dead.

But He laid His (**triumphant**) right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the (**triumphant**) First and the Last. :18 I *am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the (**triumphant**) keys of Hell and of Death.

>>>> The Cross, The Christ, The Call <<<<

Come Forward for Prayer

End of Study