

Victory In Christ

September 21st & 22nd, 2024

*2 Corinthians 2:14-17 “But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in **triumphal procession**, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere. ¹⁵For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.”*

2 Corinthians 3:4-6 “Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”

The evidence of experiencing Truth that Transforms is:

1. A Passion for God.
2. New Identity in Christ.
3. Freedom in Christ.
4. **Victory in Christ.**

❖ Christ always leads us in triumphal procession.

- ◆ Christ is at the head of the train, leading captives to victory. Psalm 68:18
 - ↳ The image of a victorious conqueror: a man on a cross
- ◆ Triumphal Procession Involves:
 - ↳ Recognizing His conquering of our own lives
 - Psalm 68:18 “You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train and receiving gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that the Lord God may dwell there.”*
 - ↳ Recognition we are conquered, by God, and thankful for it!
- ◆ The cross is the only Victory! Without the cross, no one will experience victory in life.

He Conquers us by His grace. He always leads us, we follow. Triumphal entry!

Matthew 21:9 “And the crowds that went before Him and that followed Him were shouting, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!’”

❖ Through us, spreads the fragrance...

- ◆ He changes our identity by taking us captive by grace: for we are the aroma of Christ.
- ◆ We release his aroma when we are weak and broken or doing well (always).

John 12:3 “Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.”

- ◆ Being Led by Christ & Following Him

1 Corinthians 2:15-16 “The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ‘For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.”

- ↳ We speak in Christ! Spreading everywhere the aroma of the knowledge of Christ
- ↳ We are the aroma of Christ even in suffering and weakness.

- ◆ What does Christian Victory look like? Paul's Ministry—hardship, suffering.
 - 2 Corinthians 7:5 "For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within."*
 - 2 Corinthians 5:13-15 "If we are out of our mind, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you. For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that One died for all, therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again."*
- ◆ Following Christ: Paul's example: Deciding to leave Troas, he was weak and had needs, but he was still led triumphantly!
 - 2 Corinthians 2:1 - Corinth: Decided not to make another painful visit!*
 - 2 Corinthians 2:12-13 - Troas: Peace of Christ (let the peace of Christ rule in your heart, even when the door is open)*
 - Acts 16:9 – Macedonia: Supernatural leading. Paul was led into suffering but spread everywhere the fragrance of the aroma of Christ.*
- ◆ Proclaiming Christ is the central focus of spreading everywhere the aroma of Christ.

❖ **...of the knowledge of Him everywhere.**

- ◆ His substitution for us
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21 "For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."*
- ◆ Christ, and Him Crucified
 - 1 Corinthians 1:21 "For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe."*
 - 1 Corinthians 2:2 "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."*
 - 1 Corinthians 1:18, 23-24 "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." "but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."*

📖 2 Corinthians 4:10-18

- ◆ What is Substitutionary Atonement? How is this such good news? How does this magnify the aroma of Christ?
- ◆ If anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*
- ◆ The Cross is our victory: Substitution!
 - Matthew 27:21-22 "The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let Him be crucified!'"*

His Victory leads and transforms our understanding of victory!

- ❖ The evidence of God's transformation in us is that we follow Christ into *otherworldly* victory.

Endnote:

- ◆ Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.