

GOSPEL PREACHING, A MESSAGE OF LIFE OR DEATH?

II COR. 2:12-17

Introduction:

- A. Even the casual Bible student knows that Paul had great faith in the gospel.
 - 1. To him it was, "the power of God." I Cor. 1:18.
 - 2. Only the true gospel would save. Gal. 1:6-8.

- B. Paul looked upon his preaching as entering a door that God opened.
 - 1. v12.
 - 2. The door that no man opens or shuts.

- C. Paul found great comfort in preacher brethren.
 - 1. v13.
 - 2. The ministry is a brotherhood.

- D. This apostle believed that the gospel was indicative of God's presence. v14.
 - 1. It caused him to triumph.
 - a. thriambeuo - to lead in triumph, esp. Hymns.
 - 2. It manifest the scent of his knowledge.
 - a. phaneros - visible, conspicuous.

- E. The smell of God's presence was present wherever Paul preached the gospel.
 - 1. The savour of his knowledge by us.
 - 2. We exude the smell of truth.

I. THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL IS A SWEET SMELL. V15

- A. It is a sweet smell to the saved.
 - 1. "for we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ in them that are saved."

- B. It is a sweet smell to them that perish.

1. The truth of God is the same.
2. If it saved, it is true.
3. If it condemns, it is true.
4. "and in them that perish."

II. THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL GIVES AN ODOR THAT GIVES
LIFE OR DEATH. V16a

- A. "to the one we are the savour of death unto death."
 1. An odour of death that leads to death.
- B. "and to the other the savour of life unto life."
 1. A vital fragrance that brings life.

III. PAUL FELT THIS AS A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY!

- A. "And who is sufficient for these things."
 1. sufficient = hikanos - reaching to, sufficing.
 2. Who could think himself adequate for such a task.
- B. One of primary reasons pastors resign.
 1. If you are constantly told you are inadequate.

IV. ONLY THE TRUE GOSPEL HAS SUCH POWER. V17

- A. "For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God."
 1. kapeleuo - to be a kapelos (a retailer or vintner, who were notorious for adulterating their commodities), hence, to adulterate, (non occ.)
- b. "but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in (of) Christ."
 1. eilikineia - judged in sunlight.