

Week 10
61/304

Transforming Daily

“ . . . the fragrance of Christ . . . ”
2 Corinthians 2:15

Have you ever been pleasantly distracted by a fragrant aroma as it wafted across your path? Perhaps it was cologne or perfume lavishly splashed on your spouse, or maybe it was a smell that you associated with an important relationship of your youth. On the other hand, maybe it was a big, fat, juicy piece of beef or healthy piece of chicken being grilled or barbequed that caught your attention as you were slavishly working out, jogging down the street. (The aroma no doubt decided for you what you would later have for dinner.) Whatever the fragrance, that moment grabs you by the nostrils and hurls you back in memory to a specific event. Hopefully that memory is a pleasant one.

But not all fragrances remind us of pleasant memories. Perhaps the sweet smell of sun tan/sun screen lotion reminds you of the near drowning experience that might have been yours or someone else's that you witnessed. The fragrance such as mothballs, chlorine, tobacco, citrus or hibiscus might be associated with a death in the family, or that of a close friend. There is just about nothing stronger than smells, odors and fragrances to jog the memory.

What fragrance wafts from your life across the path of the lives of others? Is it the odor of anger, self-pity, jealousy, envy, bitterness? What about the stench of unforgiveness, prejudice, or hatred? Does your life smell like fear, worry, anxiety, regret, guilt? What is the fragrance of Jesus? Is the fragrance of Jesus not love, power, and a sound mind – that is, self-control.

One of my seminary professors shared a story about his on-going discovery to find what romance is in relationship to his wife. He said that one evening he and his wife were preparing themselves to go out. He finished getting ready before she did, and as he waited for her to finish brushing her hair and such, he picked up the towel off of the bed that she had just used to bundle her hair. He put it to his face and inhaled the lingering fragrance on the towel from his wife and responded to her, “This smells just like you.” To which, with great exclamation she replied, “Now that's romantic!” He later confessed that he wasn't even going for romance, he was just stating the obvious.

What would others say about the fragrance that we leave behind in relationship to them? Is our love relationship with God through the fragrance of Christ obvious enough to influence the lives of those whose paths we cross? Does the fragrance of Christ in your life remind others of Calvary's cross and the gift of eternal life?