

April, 2014



Dear Families of Gilead Bible Church,

*Fragrances* are very, very powerful.

A couple of times this year, when I took a walk, I smelled a skunk. It smelled awful. I thought a whole family of skunk must have been around. The next day, when I was driving by on the same street, I noticed the skunk. It was just one small skunk who emitted its fragrance.

Paul talks about it in *2 Corinthians 5:15-16*:

*"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. And who is equal to such a task?"*

These verses remind us of two things:

First, Christians are a *pleasing aroma of Christ*. In other words, wherever we go and whoever we are with, we release a fragrance that smells like Christ. Everyone can smell us. Those who are being saved can smell us, and those who are perishing can smell us. One commentator wrote, "Thus the apostle wished that his life might be a sweet perfume, floating on the air, reminding me, and above all reminding God, of Christ."

Second, *Christ's aroma can bring life or Christ's aroma can bring death*. April is the month when we think of death and life. Good Friday observes the death of Jesus, and Easter celebrates the resurrected life of Jesus. Typically, for many people in America, Easter is one day that people in general might think of death and life. What a great opportunity for us to allow *Christ's aroma to bring life!* Wherever we are and whoever we meet, may allow *Christ's aroma to bring life* – through our testimony, our lifestyle, or even our attitudes. Yet, Paul reminds us that *Christ's aroma can bring death*. That happens when people choose to reject *Christ's aroma of life*. That's always a possibility, but that should not be our concern. Our concern is such that '... (our) life might be a sweet perfume, floating on the air, reminding (people), and above all reminding God, of Christ.'

God Bless,

Pastor and Helen Moy

2014年4月

親愛的基列主內弟兄姊妹，

*氣味是十分有感染的能力。*



今年有幾次當我散步時我聞到了臭鼬。它的臭味極其難聞。我想臭鼬的整個家族已經住在這附近了。第二天，當我在同一條街上駕駛時，我發現了臭鼬。原來這只是一隻小臭鼬發出來的臭味。

保羅在哥林多後書第二章：十五-十六節談到氣味：

因為我們在神面前，無論在得救的人身上或滅亡的人身上，都有基督馨香之氣。在這等人，就作了死的香氣叫他死；在那等人，就作了活的香氣叫他活。這事誰能當得起呢？”

這些經文提醒我們兩件事：

第一，基督徒乃是基督的香氣。換句話說，無論我們走到哪裡，和誰在一起，我們發放的香氣聞起來就好像是基督的馨香。每個人都可以聞到我們。那些得救的人可以聞到我們，那些滅亡的人也可以聞到我們。一位評論家如此寫道，“因此，使徒希望他的生命可以成為一種甜美的香氣，漂滲在空氣中，提醒自己，最重要的是這香氣是屬神的，是基督的馨香。”

第二，基督的香氣能帶來生命又或基督的香氣能帶來死亡。四月這月份讓我們想到死亡和生命。耶穌受難日乃默哀耶穌的死；復活節卻慶祝耶穌復活的生命。在美國，復活節這一天，通常人們會想到死亡和生命。這正是一個很好的機會讓基督馨香之氣帶來生命！無論我們在那裡與誰見面，通過我們的見證，我們的生活方式，甚至是我們的態度都可以讓基督馨香之氣帶來生命。然而，保羅提醒我們，基督的香氣也能帶來死亡。發生這種情況時，是因為人們選擇拒絕基督的生命香氣。這總是一種可能性，但這不應該是我們關注的問題。我們應該關注的是“.....（我們的）人生可以成為甜美的香氣，漂滲在空氣中，提醒(別人)，最重要的是這香氣乃出於神,是基督的馨香.

願主祝福你們

梅牧師及師母