

# SPREAD THE FRAGRANCE

*2 Corinthians 2:12-17*

<sup>12</sup> Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord, <sup>13</sup> I had **no rest for my spirit**, not finding Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went on to Macedonia.

<sup>14</sup> But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and **manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.**

[spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere – ESV]

<sup>15</sup> For **we are a fragrance of Christ to God** among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; <sup>16</sup> to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things? <sup>17</sup> For we are not like many, peddling **the word of God**, but as from sincerity, but as from God, **we speak in Christ** in the sight of God.

- 2 Corinthians 2:12-17



**arise**  
VIETNAMESE CHURCH

a member of



# Introduction

- Many evils such as immoral sexuality, abortion, LGBTQ, racism, etc. are being supported by many people in our world today.
- Why? There are many reasons. But I think that the most important reason is because they do not know the true gospel of Jesus and/or because they refused to believe and accept this good news of Him.

- How can we as followers of Jesus deal with these problems and these people? I believe that *Letting the News of Christ be Known* is the best way.
- To let the news of our loving Lord Jesus be known, I think every of us need to *Spread the Fragrance* of the knowledge of Him in every place.

- My sermon topic *Spread the Fragrance* is taken from 2 Corinthians 2:14, “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.” [*spreads the fragrance* of the knowledge of him everywhere – ESV]
- There are two parts:
  - (1) No Rest for My Spirit (2:12-13)
  - (2) No Rest in Spreading the Fragrance (2:14-17)

## I. No Rest for My Spirit (2:12-13)

### *1. Many troubles in the church of Corinth (2:12-13)*

- Paul came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and a door was opened for him there by the Lord.
- This door I believe is what recorded in the book of Acts 20:9-12.



- A “young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and **fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead**. But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, ‘Do not be troubled, for his life is in him.’ When he had gone back up and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while until daybreak, and then left. They took away **the boy alive**, and were **greatly comforted**” (Acts 20:9-12).

- A miracle happened and the people were greatly comforted.
- Where apostle Paul goes, he goes for the gospel. And the door almost opened for him wherever he goes. Thanks God!
- Where do you go? And do you go for the gospel?

- Paul came to Troas also to meet with Titus, one of his co-workers. He wants to meet with Titus because he wants to know the news of the church of Corinth.
- This church made him many troubles because of many problems mentioned in 1 Corinthians. He wrote this first letter to them. And now he really wants to know how they responded to his message.

- Paul cared for the church of Corinth though this church made him many troubles.
- He said, “I had no rest for my spirit, not finding Titus my brother.”
- Do you care for your church?
- Paul cared for the church of Corinth though this church made him many troubles.
- Some church goers today do not care for the church but make church many troubles.

# I. No Rest for My Spirit

## *2- Many afflictions in the ministry in Asia (1:8-9)*

- The church of Corinth was not only source of Paul's troubles.
- In 2 Corinthians 1:8-9, he wrote: "For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of **our affliction which came to us in Asia**, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; indeed, we had the **sentence of death** within ourselves."

- We do not know exactly these afflictions. These maybe what happened to him while he was there for the gospel as recorded in the book of Acts.
- Paul had no rest for his spirit because of many troubles and afflictions that happened to him in his journey of spreading the gospel of Jesus.
- Did these troubles and afflictions stop him in the work of the gospel?
- Do you have any trouble in your life? Are you spreading the gospel of Jesus?

## II. No Rest in Spreading the Fragrance (2:14-17)

### *1. In triumphal procession of Christ (2:14a)*

- In verse 14, Paul said: “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.”
- Paul used the picture of Triumph ceremony of ancient Rome to show us that **he was not overcome by troubles and afflictions** he faced.

- In this Triumph ceremony, the “military commander who had led Roman forces to victory in the service of the state or, originally and traditionally, one who had successfully completed a foreign war” is honored. “He rides in a four-horse chariot through the streets of Rome in unarmed procession with his army, captives, and the spoils of his war.”
- And there were some people who have a very special responsibility, spreading the sweet aroma from the special incense, in all the streets where he goes over in the procession.



- Though facing many troubles, though no rest in his spirit, but Paul knows that he is one of many people who are in the triumph in Christ. And in this triumph, **God leads, He always leads.**
- God leads Paul and us in triumph in Christ, and through him and us as people who spread the sweet aroma in the triumph procession of the ancient Roman, the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him spread in every place.

## II. No Rest in Spreading the Fragrance (2:14-17)

### *2. In spreading the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ (14b-17)*

- How God leads Paul in the triumph? How Paul overcome his troubles and afflictions? How, though had no rest in his spirit, Paul had no rest in spreading the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ?
- Firstly, “For we are a fragrance of Christ to God.” He is in the triumph, is the aroma, is the one who spread the aroma.
- Paul said that “**we are a fragrance**”.

- Are you in this triumph? Are you a fragrance of Christ? Do you really commit your life to Jesus by putting your faith in Him and accepting Him as your Savior and Lord?
- If yes, are you living a life that spread the sweet aroma of Christ among people where you live?
- Secondly, he said “We are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.” He spread the aroma by speaking the true word of God.

- There were people who speak the word because of their own personal interests as written in Philippians 2:18-19: “For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, **whose god is their appetite**, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.
- Paul said that he is not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.

- In the Triumph of the ancient Roman, there were army and captives; to the captives the aroma from death to death, to the victorious army, the aroma from life to life.
- There are two kinds of response to the word of God, accepting and refusing. For the people who accept the word, they are saved, the gospel of God will be their aroma from life to life; for the rest, from death to death.

- Can you spread the word of God like Paul? How can you do that?
- Take your time to study the word in order to live and to spread the word.
- My own experience.

## Conclusion & Application

- Are you experiencing troubles and afflictions in your life? You have no rest in your spirit? Are these troubles stopping you to spread the good news of Jesus?
- Though had no rest in his spirit, Paul still had no rest in spreading the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Christ everywhere. Let God manifest through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him wherever we live and whenever we speak.

- In order to live the “spreading the sweet aroma” life, we need to live to the Word; in order to speak the Word, we need to learn the Word; above all, we need to have the heart of God, the heart that loves the people “who are being taken away to death”, and “who are staggering to slaughter” (Proverbs 24:11).