

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for September 13, 2009

“Down But Not Out”
2 Corinthians 2:14-16

What do we learn from the Apostle Paul about ministry in 2 Corinthians 2:12-17 that will help us persevere when faced with difficulties?

We learned from the Apostle Paul that no matter how gifted we might be as a minister, the stresses, strains, and disappointments of ministry will at times become overwhelming (2 Corinthians 2:12-13).

We also learned that the sufferings that we endure as the captives of Christ in the performance of our ministry is the means by which His triumph over us is put on display (2 Corinthians 2:14).

We also learn that when God is leading us as the captives of Christ in His triumphal procession, we will have a profound and widespread impact (2 Corinthians 2:14-16).

Paul first of all communicated the profound and widespread impact of the captives of Christ in God’s triumphal procession by referring to the sweet aroma that would be flowing through them (2 Corinthians 2:14).

The imagery of the sweet aroma was very consistent with the imagery of the triumphal procession.

But even more importantly, the imagery of the sweet aroma powerfully communicated the profound and widespread impact of the captives of Christ as God led them in His triumphal procession.

Paul secondly communicated the profound and widespread impact of the captives of Christ in God’s triumphal procession by referring to them as the fragrance of Christ (2 Corinthians 2:15-16).

We cannot become the channel of the sweet aroma of the knowledge of God in this world unless we, through our commitment to spreading the gospel of Christ, have become the fragrance of Christ to God in this world.

Being the fragrance of Christ to God in this world by our commitment in spreading the gospel of Christ will have a profound impact both on those being saved and on those who are perishing.

May we, as the captives of Christ who are being led by God in His triumphal procession, be given the grace to understand our strategic importance in advancing God's eternal plan.

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