

"Who Am I?"

Part I: The Letter of Christ 2 Corinthians 2:12-17

Going Beyond the sermons into the Scripture preached by Pastor Peter Oh on September 16, 2018

Entering In:

What kind of smell do you like most? Why?

Tell the group about a time you remember smelling that fragrance.

1. As we begin a series, "Who am I?" why do you think it is important to know who we are?

Following are some statements about "who I am" found in the gospel. With which one do you identify the most? Why?

- I am the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13).
- I am the light of the world (Matthew 5:14).
- I am a child of God (John 1:12).
- I am a part of the true vine, a channel of Christ's life (John 15:1, 5).
- I am Christ's friend (John 15:15).
- I am chosen and appointed by Christ to bear His fruit (John 15:16).

2. From the brief background of 2 Corinthians mentioned in the sermon, what are the three major complaints of the Corinthians against Paul?

- 2 Corinthians 1:1; 3:1
- 2 Corinthians 10:10
- 2 Corinthians 11:8

3. Paul "Found that the Lord had opened a door" for him in Troas. What does the open door imply?

Does an open door necessarily mean that you have found God's will? What evidence from this text informs your answer?

Why did Paul not stay in Troas?

4. Near the end of Paul's 3rd missionary journey, he decided to change his travel plans (Acts 20:3b). Why?

A number of Paul's associates (Acts 20:4-6) had gone ahead him to wait for him in Troas. How long did he stay in Troas?

Why do you think Paul was troubled when he got to Troas and found that Titus was not there with "the others"?

Where did Paul go when he left Troas?

What gave Paul comfort when he arrived there? (7:6)

Has your mind been troubled like Paul? How did it affect how you functioned?

Share how you may care for others who are slow in learning and growing.

5. When Paul uses the metaphor “triumphal procession”, he is likening our Christian service to the return of a Roman general from a successful military campaign. Which members of the parade are we? Support your answer from what you know of Paul’s missionary experiences.

- A. Generals
- B. Officers
- C. Soldiers
- D. Captives (slaves)
- E. Other

What is being spread everywhere we go?

Paul uses the sense of smell to describe how those we meet along the way receive us. What two kinds of odors does he mention, and what do these perceptions represent?

6. What is the difficult question that Paul poses in verse 16b?

Why is this question significant?

What makes this question difficult to answer?

Can you honestly say that in Christ you speak before God with sincerity, like one sent from God? (verse 17)
How do you know?

Why might your life smell *good* to some people, but *bad* to others? What can you do about that?

Living It Out:

Pray for a person who needs to smell the aroma of Jesus’ death.

Pray that you may show him/her Jesus’ love through your sweet fragrance.