

WORK AS WORSHIP

Work As Worship

Part Two: Work—On Mission With God

Matthew 5:13-16; II Corinthians 2:14-17; Colossians 4:5-6; I Peter 3:13-16

#1 - Being Salt & Light That Attracts Others, Matthew 5:13-16

#2 - Being A Sweet Aroma That Attracts Others, II Corinthians 2:14-17

A Confident Aroma: This paragraph begins by thanking God who *always* leads us in *triumph*. We must always remember Who wins in the end! Paul writes in Philippians 2:9-11:

9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A Christ-Produced Aroma: The Bible here says God manifests the knowledge of Him through us in every place. Are we full of fragrance? Can people smell Him on us? In the Septuagint the term “aroma” (euōdia) was used of Old Testament sacrifices (Gen. 8:21; Ex. 29:18; Lev. 1:9; Num. 15:3). Paul’s life was a sacrificial offering (Rom. 12:1), well-pleasing to God.

To those who rejected the gospel and disbelieved the message of Christ crucified and raised Paul was like the stench of death in their nostrils (Acts 17:32). They continued on the path to destruction. But to those who believe, the gospel is like the fragrance of life.

A Pure Aroma: Verse 17 concludes with Paul saying that some dishonest people, proclaim Christ as a means to the end—of profiting from it. Paul testifies of himself that he proclaims Christ out of sincerity. We too, should live and proclaim Christ out of a sincere motivation.

#3 - Conduct & Conversation That Attracts Others, Colossians 4:5-6

Our behavior as well as our words must match the identity of a Christ-follower. Now, I know that unbelievers sometimes have mistaken views of what a Christian should be like. But as a rule of thumb, even before we give a spoken testimony about Jesus and the salvation He offers, they should be convinced that we are different. And, that difference in our lives is Christ.

Also Paul's readers should make the most of every opportunity (lit., "buy up the time"). They should be ready "in season and out of season" (2 Tim. 4:2) to proclaim Christ. In addition, their conversation (logos, "word, discourse, talking") should be always full of grace ("gracious, pleasing"; cf. Col. 3:8–9) and yet seasoned with salt (i.e., pure and penetrating; 4:6). In this way they could answer everyone who asked "the reason for the hope" (1 Peter 3:15) they had.

#4 - A Witness That Attracts Others, I Peter 3:13-16

A Prepared Witness, "always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you..." vs. 15

A Gentle & Respectful Witness, "with gentleness and reverence" vs. 15

A Faithful Witness, "keep a good conscience" vs. 16