

II CORINTHIANS 2:12-17

Lesson 5

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

- 1. Application of the Word is one of the most important purposes of Joyful Life Bible Studies. What affect did last week's study of II Corinthians 2:1-11 have on you?
- 2. Although the verses in II Corinthians 2:12-17 were written to the Corinthian church hundreds of years ago, they continue to encourage, bless and inspire Christians today. Our study this week will give us insights into a variety of practical subjects, including the amazing opportunity we have as believers to spread the fragrance of Jesus wherever we go. Preview the contents of these verses by reading II Corinthians 2:12-17. Identify the subject of each of the following divisions:
 - a. verses 12,13
 - b. verse 14
 - c. verses 15,16
 - d. verse 17
- 3. The Bible prayerfully read, believed and applied will transform a life. In response to this begin your study of II Corinthians 2:12-17 by writing a prayer. Include in your prayer any specific concerns or needs related to your lesson this week.

Thanks be to God Who leads us, wherever we are, on His own triumphant way and makes our knowledge of Him spread throughout the world like a lovely perfume! II Corinthians 2:14 Phillips

SECOND DAY: Read II Corinthians 2:12,13

1.	In II Corinthians 2:12,13 Paul resumed his explanation concerning his change of plans to visit the Corinthian church. Describe Paul's arrival and departure from Troas by writing a few phrases from:
	a. verse 12
	b. verse 13
Ac	dvanced Students: Using a concordance or Bible dictionary write a brief biography of Titus.
2.	Apparently Paul had journeyed from Ephesus to Troas where he was eager to find Titus. Paul wanted to know how the Corinthian believers had received Titus and how they had responded to Paul's letter. How would Paul's words in II Corinthians 2:12,13 have communicated his love for them?
	a. What affect should this have had on Paul's accusers in Corinth?
3.	What did Paul's restless spirit (II Corinthians 2:13) seem to indicate to him?
	a. What might a lack of peace concerning plans and decisions signify to us?
	(1.) If this occurs what should a believer do?

THIRD DAY: Read II Corinthians 2:14

1.	Beginning with II Corinthians 2:14 Paul moved away from the subject of his itinerary to describe and defend his ministry. Notice Paul's attitude and perspective in this verse. Let the truth of verse 14 penetrate your mind and heart as you write it here phrase by phrase.
	a. Consider the two reasons Paul mentioned in verse 14 for which he thanked God. What is your initial reaction to this verse?
2.	Observe II Corinthians 14a NIV: Who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ. Paul gave his readers a word picture drawn from a secular event familiar to the Corinthians. The Romans celebrated their triumph over their enemies with a victory parade. The victorious commander or general would ride in his chariot, leading his soldiers and their captives through the streets which were lined with cheering spectators while clouds of incense from burning spices filled the air. To the victors the incense was the fragrance that signified life; to the captives doomed to execution, it was the scent of death. With this in mind explain what verse 14a means in your life.
	a. Link the truth of verse 14a with Romans 8:37. How should this affect our perspective when experiencing difficult circumstances?
	(1.) In recognition of these truths, what instruction does I Corinthians 15:57,58 give us?
3.	Focus on Paul's second reason for giving thanks to God by reading II Corinthians 2:14b NIV: <i>And through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him.</i> How does this speak to you about the opportunity and privilege we have as Christians?
	a. List a few ways the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ is spread by us.
4.	In response to II Corinthians 2:14 complete today's lesson by writing a prayer expressing your thanks to God.

FOURTH DAY: Read II Corinthians 2:15,16

- 1. It is essential for us to grasp the concept presented in II Corinthians 2:14b-16. The word savour in these verses has been translated *fragrance* and *perfume*. Observe verse 14b NLT: *Now wherever we go He uses us to tell others about the Lord and to spread the Good News like a sweet perfume*. Personalize II Corinthians 2:15 as you write it here.
 - a. What does realizing you are a sweet savour unto God mean to you?
 - b. What parallels do you see between the diffused fragrance of a lovely perfume and a Christian?
- 2. The fragrance of our lives is *a scent breathed in heaven and on earth*. II Corinthians 2:15,16 reveals this world is divided into two categories of people. From verse 16 record the affect this fragrance has on:
 - a. *them that perish* (are lost)
 - b. them that are saved
- 3. Are you aware on a daily basis that *you are the fragrance of Christ in this world*? This fragrance is not manufactured or applied on the outside. Its source is the indwelling presence of Christ, the Fragrant One. Although Christ is the source, what things can hinder the release of His fragrance through us?
 - a. You may be the only fragrance of Christ in your home, workplace, or neighborhood. How does this speak to you?
 - b. Print Paul's question in verse 16c.
 - (1.) If the Apostle Paul didn't feel adequate for *these things*, how much less might we. What encouragement does II Corinthians 3:5 give you concerning this?
- 4. The costliest perfume is made from extracting the essential oil from flower petals. This process of extraction always involves the loss of that which does not contribute to the fragrance. How might trials in a believer's life be used of the Lord to produce the sweetest fragrance possible?

FIFTH DAY: Read II Corinthians 2:17

1.	In II Corinthians 2:17 the phrase <i>corrupt the Word of God</i> means <i>to peddle for profit</i> or <i>deal deceitfully with</i> . Synthetic perfume is perfume made with artificial ingredients. It is meant to imitate or replace the thing. What parallels can you draw between this and verse 17?		
2.	In contrast to <i>many</i> who <i>peddle the Word of God for profit</i> (II Corinthians 2:17a NIV), what characterized Paul's ministry? Answer from verse 17b.		
	a. The word <i>sincerity</i> conveys the idea of <i>transparent</i> or <i>pure</i> . Why is this essential for those in Christian ministry?		
3.	According to II Corinthians 2:17c Paul was conscious that everything he said and did was <i>in the sight of God</i> . Everything we say and do is also <i>in the sight of God</i> . How should this affect our choices and conduct on a daily basis?		
	Like a watered garden full of fragrance rare, Lingering in Thy presence let my life appearselected J		
SI	SIXTH DAY: Review II Corinthians 2:12-17		
1.	With this week's study in mind record a thought, discovery or insight from the following verses:		
	a. II Corinthians 2:12,13		
	b. II Corinthians 2:14		
	c. II Corinthians 2:15,16		
	d. II Corinthians 2:17		

2.	Through II Corinthians 2:14-17 we recognize that believers are <i>the fragrance of Christ</i> in this world. If you could name a perfume after a fragrant Christian, what would it be?
	a. If someone were to name a perfume after you, by what fragrance would you like to be known?
3.	In response to your lesson this week share a way you have been: a. encouraged
	b. inspired
	c. challenged
4.	In what way do you plan to apply what you have learned through your study this week?
5.	Complete your lesson by using the words of the following song as a prayer:
	Jesus, fill me with Your sweetness. Set my heart on fire with You. Let my life now be a sweet fragrance of Thee that rises high before my King. Search my heart and soul and as You take control make my life an offering. -selected \$\mathcal{F}\$