

WHAT IS THAT SMELL?

There is an amazing connection between fragrance and memory. I always notice this at holidays. When I smell evergreen, baked goods and other foods being cooked, my mind goes back to when I was a boy. I am back there on 23rd street. I see Mother and Daddy. My brothers are there. They are great memories.

The incense they used in the temple was not used anywhere else, so when you smelled it, you thought of worship.

Paul tells us, in Ephesians, that our Christian walk imitates the fragrant offering of Christ. In II Corinthians he calls us the Aroma of Christ. Not everyone likes the Aroma of Christ, but no one misses it.

When people are close to you, what do they smell?

Paul

REJOICE AND BE GLAD

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that because she was highly favored, she would give birth to the Son of the Most High, the Messiah. When Mary heard the good news, she knew she was blessed among all women. Her beautiful song praises God's mercy, mighty deeds and omnipotent powers.

Mary glorifies God's mercy that extends to all those who fear and worship Him. Because of His love and compassion, God sent Jesus to save us. We glorify God as Mary did, when we recognize the joy and blessing of the Messiah's coming to give us hope of eternal life.

Mary honors God's supremacy by the power He has to exalt the humble and put down the proud. Our heavenly Father is able to bring down rulers and the self-righteous and lift up the meek and lowly. We rejoice, as Mary did, knowing that God gives strength to the weary and helps the weak.

All of us are favored and blessed in God's eyes if we do His will. Our souls glorify and rejoice to have a Messiah who died for our sins and gives us hope of living in heaven for eternity.

BIBLE THOUGHT: *"The angel answered, 'the Holy Spirit will come on you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, so the Holy One to be born will be called The Son of God'*

Friends of the Teacher

Submission

Jesus struggled as he prayed in the garden facing the cross. He was struggling with the terrible cost of His submission. In the end He submitted. The Hebrew writer says this about it, ***“Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him!”*** Hebrews 5:8-9. Salvation came through submission, so it stands to reason we must learn submission.

There is a lot of talk these days concerning women’s role in the church. This is due to the change in women’s role in society. America is becoming less a Judeo-Christian society, and more and more a secular one. The Lord’s church is made up of those who are following the rule of Christ trying to be those who ***“obey him,”*** and we must learn to become submissive to God’s will. We must resist being led by a world that is running away from Christ. Paul warns, ***“...do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*** Romans 12:2.

Actually it was Jesus who emancipated women in the first place. Paul speaking for Jesus said, ***“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”*** Galatians 3:28. Everyone is equal before God!

But this does not remove our obligation to submit to God and to one another. Christians are to ***“Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ”*** (Ephesians 5:21). Christians are told to submit to the rule of the shepherds in the church for the Lord’s sake (Hebrews 13:17). We are instructed in our families that wives are to submit to the leadership of their husbands just as the church submits to the rule of Jesus (Ephesians 5:22f). Christian women are to have enough confidence to allow men to take the lead publicly as Christ instructs.

All this submission issues from Jesus whom God made head over the church. Indeed, we cannot enter the church of Christ till we submit to Christ’s leadership through obedience.

In all this submission Jesus rules the church through love. Therefore, our submission, whenever and wherever it is required, is not a demeaning act. It is a display of our confidence in the love of God.

...Milt from 5/18/15

THIS N' THAT

Attendance Sun. 01/10 90

Contribution Sun: 01/10 \$32,373.00

Elder for January: Steve Stanley

Deacons for January: Russ Gest & Seth Becker

January 17: Morning Worship

Song Leader: Justin Thornton

1st Prayer: David McWherter

Scripture Reading: Aiden Hasty

Shepherd's Prayer: Steve Stanley

(Wine): Patrick Keely

(Bread): Justin Ward

(Offering): Don Davis

Alternates: Cutter Cole, Taylor Cole, Don Davis, Davis Lusk, Les Bird.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Orlando Valadez had surgery and everything went well. He is at home recovering. They appreciate the cards and prayers.

Please pray for Melva Weeks. She will be having surgery in Dallas January 18th. She will be going down several days before her surgery for tests. LouAnn Hedden has a broken wrist in (5) places and will need to continue to heal for sometime. She is still in some pain from the elbow and wrist. Kimbri Wade is continuing to have pain in her wrist and will go to Dallas Thursday for follow-up with her doctor. Kay Rollins who will have back surgery Thurs. 14th. Judy Langston is still in the hospital in Abilene and is not doing very well. She is scheduled for an MRI in the near future. Harold & Ann Smith are continuing to improve. Angela Griffin and her husband Scott. They are requesting our prayers. Please pray for all of our members who are confined to nursing facilities. Please pray for Thelma Bannert. Thelma has been diagnosed with cancer and she is having a hard timer. Pray for Mary Bryant, Grace Rogers, Harroll Clemmer, Sherry Fowler.

TODAY

Today, I will live as if it is the most important day I possess, because it is actually the only day I have.

Today, I will whine and complain less. I will be thankful more, because I know that gratitude makes a better person out of me.

Today, I will criticize less and praise more, because the people I love need to know that I love and approve of them.

Today, I will take more time with God my Father and less with earthly pleasures. I know that I need His strength and guidance.

Today, I will pray more and play less. I want my heavenly Father to know my heart, to hear my concerns, and to realize how thankful I am to be His child.

Today, I will remember my brother more and myself less. I will consider his feelings, his needs and wants more and my own a little less.

Today, I will speak of Jesus more and my other interests less. Today, He must increase, and I must decrease (John 3:30).

Today, I will remember the souls of all men. I will remember the person who is rude to me still has an eternal soul. I will remember the youth and the weak might see me do something wrong and imitate it. I will remember that my good may encourage another to do right.

Today, I will remember that I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. Today I will live by faith in the one who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Phil Sanders

Living close to Me requires making Me your *First Love*-your highest priority. As you seek My Presence above all else, you experience Peace and joy in full measure. I also am blessed when you make Me first in your life.

Ephesians 5 & 6

Paul concludes his moving letter to the church at Ephesus with a reflection on how to live as a Christian, walking in love. Living a Christian life in this fallen world is really a challenge. One we will never master. However, God has left his Holy Spirit with us to help us live our lives in his image. The God inspired instructions Paul gives us about how to go about living a holy life are not complicated.

Be imitators of God. 5:1

Walk in love. 5:2

Let there be thanksgiving. 5:4

Let no one deceive you with empty words. 5:6

Walk as children of light. 5:8

Try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 5:10

Do not be foolish. 5:17

Be filled with the Spirit. 5:18

Give thanks always and for everything. 5:20

Submit to one another. 5:21

These are just a few of the instructions he gives. Paul then focuses on the quality of our family and work relationships. Our walk as Christians informs all of our relationships.

Love your wife as yourself. 5:33

Respect your husband. 5:33

Obey your parents. 6:2

Do not provoke your children to anger. 6:4

Valuing our fellow man is at the heart of having a Godly worldview. It is the thing that sets Christians apart in how we live and what we value. When we are thankful, loving and kind we are taking up the shield of faith and using the sword of the spirit. These simple directions are the way that we make a Christian life.

The Yarbroughs