

HOW SWEET THE NAME OF JESUS SMELLS
2 Corinthians 2:12-17 // October 18, 2026 AM

The risen Christ spreads His triumph through faithful preachers.

I. Authentic ministry *sweetly propagates* (vv. 12-14).

II. Authentic ministry *solemnly polarizes* (vv. 15-17).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. Why was Paul's spirit restless while ministering in Troas? What does this show us about his heart for the Corinthians?
2. Who was ultimately in charge of Paul's itinerary? Why is this important to see?
3. What common image in the ancient world was Paul drawing upon when he spoke of Christ's "triumphal procession"?
4. What role do gospel ministers play in Christ's victory parade? How does the help us make sense of Paul's focus on smelling?
5. What is polarization? Why does the gospel bring it about?
6. How did the false teachers make the gospel less polarizing? Why must preachers not do that?
7. What does it mean to "speak in Christ"? What does union with Christ have to do with faithful preaching?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Pastor Nick claimed that we are "wired for glory." What did he mean, and how does this work itself out in the world and the church?
2. Is the gospel the fragrance of life unto life to me? What does this indicate about God's work in my heart and life?
3. Is the glory of God in Christ my prevailing passion? And does the preaching ministry of the church fuel that passion?