the aroma of CHRIST

2 Corinthians 2:14–17
1. Suffering is part of the gospel ministry (v. 14a)
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- In the conquering party?
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- In the conquering party?
- Or one of the conquered captives?
For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men.

– 1 Corinthians 4:9
But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. – 1 Corinthians 4:9
Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known. – Colossians 1:24-25
1. Suffering is part of the gospel ministry (v. 14a)

- In the conquering party?
- Or one of the conquered captives?
- The paradox of the kingdom
2. Believers are called to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Christ. (v. 14b-16a)
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• A fragrance of death – those who are perishing
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- An extension of the suffering of Christ
- A fragrance of death – those who are perishing
- A fragrance of life – those being saved
“The world does not need cool Christians who are culturally saturated. It needs exiles with the scent of heaven and the aroma of Christ.” – John Piper
3. God supplies **strength** to proclaim His Word **faithfully.** (v. 16b-17)
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• As men of sincerity
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• As men of sincerity
• As commissioned by God
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- As men of **sincerity**
- As **commissioned** by God
- In the **sight** of God
3. God supplies strength to proclaim His Word faithfully. (v. 16b-17)

- As men of sincerity
- As commissioned by God
- In the sight of God
- In Christ