

This is the Day...Friday

January 21, 2022

Do You Smell That?

“But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ’s triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.”
(2 Corinthians 2:14-15)

Throughout the course of my life, I have never known anyone with a more powerful sense of smell than my mother. In her later years, Mom’s eyesight was compromised by her macular degeneration. And Mom was apparently as deaf as a rock, although there were times when I believed she could hear more than she admitted to. But the one sense that Mom never lost was her sense of smell. She could smell a small sliver of onion, accidentally lost on the floor, in a matter of minutes. Mom’s nose told us when the dog needed to be bathed and when we needed a bath. We often referred to her nose as the “stink-o-meter” because it picked up every different aroma in the house.

It was not just bad smells that caught her attention. One Saturday evening, I came inside from a full day of playing out in the heat and I was particularly sweaty and stinky. Mom sent me directly to the bath and told me I could have supper after I smelled better. After my bath, I noticed that my older brother had a new jar of cologne in the medicine cabinet. I wanted to smell good for Mom and, since I had never used cologne before, I figured the more I used, the better I would smell. As soon as I sat down at the supper table, Mom caught wind of the aroma. So did everyone else in the house. Truthfully, I think everyone in the neighborhood could smell me at that point. Mom never said a word about the fact that I had used enough cologne to change global weather patterns. She was just thankful that I had gone to such lengths to please her.

The Bible’s reference to us being a pleasing aroma to God goes back to the days of the burnt offerings in the Hebrew Scriptures. God was pleased at the aroma of that offering indicating a sacrifice to God. As we share a life of sacrifice and servanthood, we are presenting a pleasing offering of ourselves to God. It is a very distinctive aroma that God recognizes. As we strive to live and carry on the characteristics of Christ in the world, we are to God the pleasing aroma of those who are being saved each day.

On this day God has given you, offer your sacrifice to God in the way you serve others as Christ did. Offer a sacrifice of time. Offer a sacrifice of resources. Offer a sacrifice of testimony as you share your story with the world. Just like my mom, God will notice that aroma.